

HISTORY  
OF  
3RD DIVISION,  
9TH CORPS,  
ARMY OF THE  
POTOMAC





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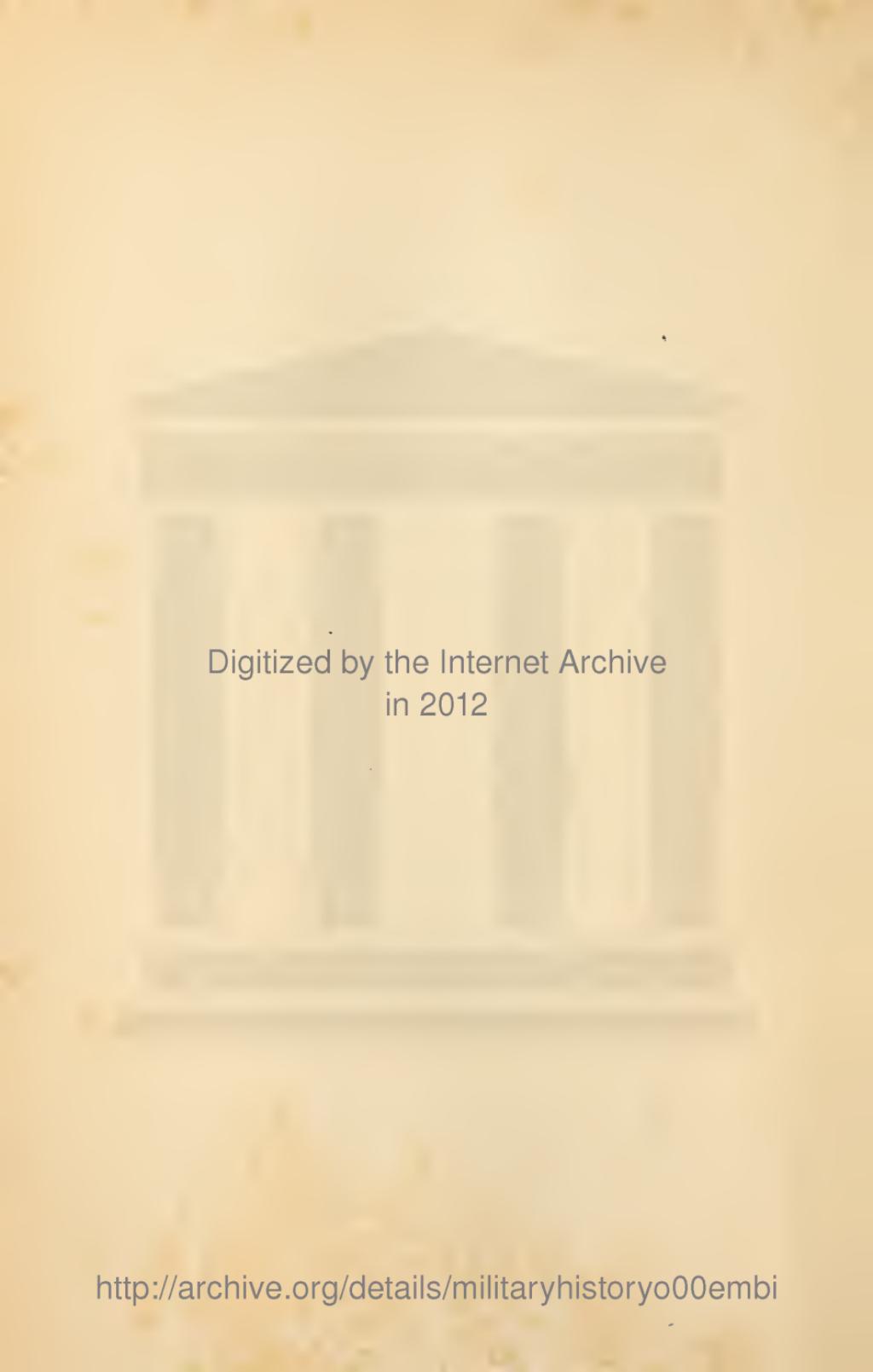
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Major General John F. Hartranft, Commander Third Division,  
Ninth Army Corp.

# MILITARY HISTORY

OF THE

## THIRD DIVISION, NINTH CORPS

### ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

With a Record of the Division Association, Organized Harrisburg, March 25, 1890, and Dedication of Equestrian Statue to General John F. Hartranft, Commander Division May 12, 1899, and the Dedication of the Monuments at Fort Stedman and Mahone on Petersburg Battle Field, May 19th, 1909, with the Addresses Delivered there by President Taft and Others

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Compiled and Edited by

MILTON A. EMBICK

Secretary Battlefield Commission, Third Division, Ninth Army Corps  
Army of the Potomac

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BY AUTHORITY OF BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION,  
JULY, 1910.

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C. E. AUGHINBAUGH,  
PRINTER TO THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
1913.

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# SKETCH OF THE MILITARY RECORD

OF THE

## Third Division of the Ninth Army Corps

### ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

By MAJOR A. C. HUIDEKOPER, 211th

**I**N the Spring of 1864 President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for the enlistment of five hundred thousand men. The State of Pennsylvania's quota included the men who made up the 200th, 205th, 207th, 208th, 209th, and the 211th regiments of volunteer infantry, and these regiments at a later date became the Third Division of the Ninth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, and were commanded by General Hartranft, a Pennsylvanian himself. The Division was often referred to as Hartmanft's Division.

The men who composed these six regiments were a husky, healthy lot of young men, varying in age from 16 to 22 years; they were drawn from professional occupations, the trades, and agricultural life; and the records made by many of the rank and file, in political, civil and social life after the War, showed that they were men of intelligence and culture.

*The 200th Regiment* was recruited from the Counties of York, Cumberland, and Dauphin. It was organized at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pa., on the third day of September, 1864. It was commanded by Charles W. Diven, formerly Major of the 12th Pennsylvania Reserves. William H. H. McCall, formerly a Captain in the 5th Reserve was the Lieutenant Colonel; and Jacob Rehrer, formerly a Captain in the 6th Reserve, was the Major.

*The 205th Regiment* was recruited from the Counties of Blair, Berks, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Dauphin and Adams. It was organized at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pa., on September 2, 1864. Joseph A. Matthews was its Colonel; William F. Walters, Lieutenant Colonel; and B. M. Morrow, Major.

*The 207th Regiment* was organized at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pa., on Sept. 1, 1864, with the following field officers: Robert C. Cox, formerly Major of the 175th Infantry, Colonel; William S. Snoddy, Lieu-

tenant Colonel; and Victor A. Elliott, Major. The men were recruited from Tioga, Clinton, Cumberland, Lycoming, Bradford, York, and Lancaster Counties.

*The 208th Regiment* was organized at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 12, 1864. It was recruited from the Counties of Perry, Snyder, Blair, Lebanon, Dauphin and Bedford. The field officers were: Alfred B. McCalmoth, Colonel; W. T. Heintzelman, Lieutenant Colonel; and Alexander Bobb, Major.

*The 209th Regiment* was organized at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg, Pa., on Sept. 16, 1864. It was recruited from the Counties of Cumberland, York, Cambria, Franklin, Columbia, Adams, Lehigh and Lebanon. Tobias B. Kaufman, formerly Major of the 1st Pennsylvania Reserves, was Colonel; George W. Fredericks was Lieutenant Colonel; and John Z. Ritchey was the Major.

*The 211th Regiment* was organized at Camp Reynolds, Pittsburgh, Pa., on the 16th day of Sept. 1864. It was recruited from the Counties of Crawford, Jefferson, McKean, Elk, Mercer, Warren, Erie and Westmoreland. James H. Trimble, formerly Major of the 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry, was the Colonel; Levi A. Dodd, formerly a Captain in the 169th Pa. Infantry, was the Lieutenant Colonel; and Augustus A. Mechling was the Major. Many of the officers and some of the men had seen service before, as this was their second enlistment.

The six regiments (which I will call "The Regiments") were transported by boat from Washington, and from Baltimore to City Point, Va. At that place they were formed into a Provisional Brigade, with some other troops, and came under the immediate command of General B. F. Butler. The regiments were assigned to J. H. Potter's brigade and were ordered to do duty on what was known as the Bermuda Hundred front, which extended a distance of about five miles, from the James River on the right to the Appomattox river on the left. It was about at the center of General Grant's lines, as the Army of the James then lay across the James River on the right, and the army of the Potomac lay on the other side of the Appomattox River on the left.

This front was fortified by a series of forts and batteries connected with heavy entrenchments. There were a few detached and advanced forts surrounded by *chevaux de frise* and abatis.

Opposed to this front was the Confederate line, equally well fortified, and defended by Pickett's veteran division of Gettysburg fame. Behind the Confederate line was the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, a line essential to the safety of their Army. The right of the Bermuda Hundred front was about 12 miles distant from Richmond, and the left about 10 miles distant from Petersburg; and this front was most important to the safety of the Federal Army, for it was only eight miles from City Point, where were the General Headquarters, as well as the base of supplies for the Army. Considering the importance of this position, it was remarkable that its defense should have been entrusted largely to a body of troops which had never

even been schooled in the manual of arms. After a few days at Bermuda Hundred, the regiments were ordered into the fortifications at the front, where the brigade took the place of troops of the 18th Army Corps which had been transferred to the Army of the James to take part in the attack on Fort Harrison.

On the very day that the brigade arrived at the entrenchments they experienced the realities of war. To the right of their camps they could see the assaulting column at the battle of Fort Harrison; they could hear the thunder of guns and could see the bursting of shells to right and left of them, and they received a heavy artillery fire on their own immediate front. Someone in authority evidently thought it necessary to announce to the enemy that the Bermuda Hundred front had been strengthened, instead of weakened, by the removal of troops, and therefore issued an order to place the newly-arrived brigade on top of the breastworks. The enemy replied to this movement by opening fire with all of their guns in our front, and one of the shells killed and wounded several of our men before they could be ordered down. It will be noted, therefore, that in less than fifteen days from the time of their muster-in, these regiments had entered on their rolls the first reports of "Killed in action."

The services required of the new troops were especially severe. By day they were schooled in the manual of arms, in the school of the company, in the school of the regiment, and in service pertaining to camp and routine life. Besides these duties, they were placed on the picket and vedette lines,—positions which should only have been entrusted to veteran troops. The picket lines on this front were in such proximity that at one post the Union vedette sat at one end of a log and the Confederate vedette sat at the other end of it. Of course such conditions only lasted during the period when there was a tacit understanding that there should be no firing without due notice given by both sides, but at all times the commotion of camp life, such as the bugle calls, the playing of the band, and the singing at Divine services, could be distinctly heard by the men on the advanced posts.

Most of the officers in the several regiments were well schooled in their military duties, and the men were soon in commendable military shape. The sanitation of the camps was very bad. Typhoid fever became epidemic. At least one-third of all the men were sent to the hospitals, and this numerical weakening of the ranks added greatly to the work of those who remained fit for duty. It was not uncommon for the men who had been on duty all night to be ordered out at 4 p. m. on the following day to perform the same service again.

The proximity of the pickets made it possible for either side to mass a superior force at a given point on the line, and under screen of darkness to rush forward and "gobble the picket line," as it was called. Such attacks were made at long intervals, when the men least expected them. General orders required that all officers and men should report for duty at day-break at the breastworks, to be ready to repel any attack which might be made at any time, which was especially likely to happen at dawn. Add to this ner-

vous strain the duties necessary to camp life, and one can realize that officers and men were being over-tasked. They suffered greatly from lack of sufficient sleep, not to speak of physical exhaustion.

On part of the Bermuda front was an open field; the view of the opposing camps was only obstructed by the entrenchments. To the right of this open field on the picket line was wooded country sloping away to the James River. At the intersection of the open field and the wood there was a decided angle in the Confederate picket line, and this deflexion the enemy resolved to straighten on the night of Nov. 17, 1864. The night was dark. The Confederates masked a largely superior force, and at a concerted signal they rushed forward and captured our pickets. Our sentries who were not killed, wounded or captured, retreated in proper form to the reinforcements sent out to support them and formed a new picket line, but the enemy having accomplished their purpose, made no effort to advance. On this night assault we lost one Colonel, two Captains, two Lieutenants, and 117 men—a most serious loss, which was felt deeply by the regiments. Officers and men stood to their arms: they were killed or captured in their positions. The truth is, they were physically overcome by the superior numbers of their enemies, and the men were killed and wounded as is incidental to any night mêlée, when darkness prevents accurate firing.

This incident on the picket line aroused bitter feeling. As long as our troops held this position the picket detail had to be taken out after dark in sunken trenches, and the sight of a head or hand by day brought a shower of bullets at the offender; the breaking of a twig by night brought the vedettes in on a run, and a storm of musketry followed their arrival in the picket entrenchments.

The Regiments under such conditions were very glad when they received their marching orders on Nov. 24, 1864. They now crossed the Appomattox River over a pontoon bridge and became the Third Division of the Ninth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. The Division was divided into brigades; the 200th, 208th and the 209th became the First Brigade; the 205th, the 207th and the 211th became the Second Brigade.

Brigadier General John Frederick Hartranft was placed in command of the Division. No better man could have been selected. He had had a long and successful career as Colonel of the 51st Pennsylvania Volunteers; he had a commanding military presence, a searching eye ready to notice the least defect; he was swarthy of complexion—so much so that his men called him "Black John"; he was a splendid horseman—his mounts were thoroughbreds; he was especially careful in regard to his dress and accoutrements. He was a thorough going disciplinarian, commanding good service and severely condemning bad; he obliged all of his staff officers to practice their horses over hurdles, ditches, and hedges; and he organized a Division school, where every field officer and every staff officer in the Division was taught how to meet every emergency in the field. Under the watchful eye of such a commander the troops soon showed the well-set-up figure which indicates the well-trained soldier. Their swing was easy, and



Capture of Fort Stedman and adjacent lines by the Confederates under General John B. Gordon, on the morning of March 25, 1865.



The final charge and recapture of Fort Stedman by the Third Division of the Ninth Army Corp., March 25, 1865.



when in front formations their alignments were true. Their General had confidence in his men; the men had absolute confidence in their commander.

The Third Division was assigned a position in the rear of the Petersburg line, extending from the Appomattox on the right to Fort Howard on the left, a distance of about 4 1-2 to 5 miles. The Division was to act as a support to any part of the line that was attacked,—and they never failed in their mission. Their camps were never out of range of the enemy's guns; often they were moved up under the musketry fire; but the men had become accustomed to the sound of Minnie balls, shells from guns and mortars, and had had grape, canister and shrapnel hurled at them, so that they were now equal to any service required of them.

They now established themselves in Winter quarters: log houses covered with canvas, with fireplaces at the gable, made them very comfortable. And the troops were now exercised in Brigade and Division formations.

On December 9th the Division was ordered out as a support to General Warren's Corps, who were operating against the Weldon Railroad. They were sent in light marching order, without tents. Shortly after they had started it began to rain and snow, and after a march of some four miles they went into camp near Fort Stevenson, near what was called "Hangman's Ground," because there deserters were hanged or shot, usually on Fridays.

Orders were given to build no fires, so as to screen the movements of the troops from the enemy, and the men were obliged to move around their bivouac to keep from freezing to death. In the morning the Division was paraded in a hollow square, to see the hanging of two deserters (not men from this Corps), and then the men were sent out over the Jerusalem plank-road on a 20-mile march to the support of Warren's troops.

The men plodded along through mud, rain and sleet, wading through water up to their knees. They made a wet, cold camp, and guarded the Nottaway River until Warren's corps recrossed, when they were returned to their various camps, under conditions of hardship such as only trained soldiers can endure.

On February 5, 1865, the Division was marched to support the Second Corps in the engagement at Hatcher's Run. The supporting column was placed under the command of General Humphreys, then commanding the Second Corps. The service on this trip was severe, but the men stood it well.

During the early part of March large fatigue details were made to rebuild a secondary line of defense between Fort Prescott and Fort Broos. The troops were here trained in the cutting of stakes for abatis and the placing of the same, and this experience was later of much value to the men when they were called upon to cut away the abatis and *chevaux de frise* in their assault on Fort Mahone.

On March 25th the Divisions were called to the support of the line which the enemy had captured at Fort Stedman.

As the plans and the initiative of the Fort Stedman fight were made by the Confederates, I herewith quote largely from General John B. Gordon's

account of the Battle of Fort Stedman,—as it was called by the Union forces,—the Battle of Hare Hill, as it was called by the Confederates:

"General Lee's instructions to me were substantially as follows: 'Move your troops into the works around the city as I withdraw one of the other commands from them. Make your headquarters in the city. Study General Grant's works at all points, consider carefully all plans and possibilities, and then tell me what you can do, if anything, to help us in our dilemma.'

"The narrow space between Lee's and Grant's lines, the vigilance of the pickets who stood within speaking range of each other, and the heavily loaded guns which commanded every foot of the intrenchments, made the removal of one body of troops and the installing of another impracticable by daylight and quite hazardous even at night. We moved, however, cautiously through the city to the breastworks, and, as the other corps was secretly withdrawn, my command glided into the vacant trenches as softly and noiselessly as the smooth flow of a river."

"The breastworks behind which stood the brave army in blue appeared to be as impenetrable by any force which Lee could send against them as is a modern ironclad to the missiles from an ordinary field battery; but if there was a weak point in those defences, I was expected to find it. If such a point could be found, I was expected to submit to General Lee some plan by which it would be feasible, or at least possible, for his depleted army to assail it successfully.

"Giving but few hours of the twenty-four to rest and sleep, I labored day and night at this exceedingly grave and discouraging problem, on the proper solution of which depended the commander's decision as to when and where he would deliver his last blow for the life of the Confederacy. My efficient staff—Majors Moore, Hunter, Dabney, and Pace, and Captains Markoe, Wilmer and Jones—were constantly engaged gathering information from every possible source. The prisoners captured were closely questioned, and their answers noted and weighed. Deserters from the Federal Army added valuable material to the information I was acquiring.

"It required a week of laborious examination and intense thought to enable me to reach any definite conclusion. Every rod of the Federal intrenchments, every fort and parapet on the opposing lines of breastworks and on the commanding hills in the rear of them, every sunken path of the pickets and every supporting division of infantry behind the works, had to be noted and carefully scrutinized. The character of the obstructions in front of each portion of the Union works had to be critically examined and an estimate made as to the time it would require to cut them away so that men could mount the breastworks or rush into the fort selected for our attack. The distance between the opposing works and the number of seconds or minutes it would require for my troops to rush across were important factors in estimating the chances of success or failure, and required the closest calculation. The decision as to the most vulnerable point for attack involved two additional questions of vital importance. The first was:

From what point on my own intrenchments could my assaulting column rush forth on its desperate night sally, with the least probability of arousing the sleeping foe? The second was: How many intervening ditches were there, and of what width and depth, over which my men were to leap or into which they might fall in the perilous passage? All these points considered, I decided that Fort Stedman on Grant's lines was the most inviting point for attack and Colquitt's Salient on Lee's lines the proper place from which to sally.

"The plan of the attack on Fort Stedman was fully developed in my own mind; and whether it was good or bad, the responsibility of it was upon me, not because there was any indisposition on General Lee's part to make a plan of his own and order its execution, but because he had called me from the extreme right to his centre at Petersburg for this purpose. With him was the final decision—approval or rejection.

"As soon as he was notified that I was ready to report, he summoned me to his quarters. After such a lapse of time I cannot give General Lee's exact words in so prolonged a conference, but the following questions and answers faithfully represent the substance of the interview.

"'What can you do?' he asked.

"'I can take Fort Stedman, sir.'

"'How, and from what point?'

"'By a night assault from Colquitt's Salient, and a sudden quick rush across ditches where the enemy's pickets are on watch, running over the pickets and capturing them, or, if they resist, using the bayonet.'

"'But the *chevaux de frise* protecting your front is, I believe, fastened together at Colquitt's Salient with chains and spikes. This obstruction will have to be removed before your column of attack can pass out of your works. Do you think you can move these obstructions without attracting the attention of Union pickets which are only a few rods away? You are aware that they are especially vigilant at night, and that any unusual noise on your lines would cause them to give the alarm, arousing their men in the fort, who would quickly turn loose upon you their heavy guns loaded with grape and canister.'

"'This is a serious difficulty; but I feel confident that it can be overcome. I propose to intrust the delicate task of getting our obstructions removed to a few select men, who will begin the work after dark, and, with the least possible noise, make a passageway for my troops by 4 a. m., at which hour the sally is to be made.'

"'But suppose you succeed in removing the obstructions in front of your own lines without attracting the attention of General Grant's pickets and get your column under full headway and succeed in capturing or killing the pickets before they can give the alarm; you will have a still more serious difficulty to overcome when you reach the strong and closely built obstructions in front of Fort Stedman and along the enemy's works. Have you as-

certained how these obstructions are made and thought of any way to get over them or through them? You know that a delay of even a few minutes would insure a consuming fire upon your men, who, while halting, would be immediately in front of the heavy guns in the fort.'

"I recognize fully, General, the force of all you say; but let me explain. Through prisoners and deserters I have learned during the past week all about the obstructions in front of General Grant's lines. They are exceedingly formidable. They are made of rails, with the lower ends deeply buried in the ground. The upper ends are sharpened and rest upon poles, to which they are fastened by strong wires. These sharp points are about breast high, and my men could not possibly get over them. They are about six or eight inches apart; and we could not get through them. They are so securely fastened together and to the horizontal poles by the telegraph wires that we could not possibly shove them apart so as to pass them. There is but one thing to do. They must be chopped to pieces by heavy, quick blows with axes. I propose to select fifty brave and especially robust and active men, who will be armed only with axes. These axemen will rush across, closely followed by my troops, and will slash down a passage for my men almost at a single blow. This stalwart force will rush into the fort with the head of my column, and, if necessary, use their axes instead of bayonets in any hand-to-hand conflict inside the fort. I think I can promise you, General, that we will go into that fort; but what we are going to do when we get in is the most serious problem of all.'

"At this point General Lee discussed and carefully considered every phase of the hazardous programme. He expressed neither approval nor disapproval; but he directed me to explain fully the further details of the plan on the supposition that by possibility we could take Fort Stedman and the lines on each side of it.

"The purpose of the movement was not simply the capture of Fort Stedman and the breastworks flanking it. The prisoners and guns we might thus capture would not justify the peril of the undertaking. The tremendous possibility was the disintegration of the whole left wing of the Federal army, or at least the dealing of such a staggering blow upon it as would disable it temporarily, enabling us to withdraw from Petersburg in safety and join Johnston in North Carolina. The capture of the fort was only the breasting of the first wave in the ocean of difficulties to be encountered. It was simply the opening of a road through the wilderness of hostile works nearest to us in order that my corps and the additional forces to be sent me could pass toward the rear of Grant's lines and then turn upon his flanks.

"General Lee resumed his questions, saying in substance:

"Well, suppose you capture the fort, what are you going to do with the strong line of infantry in the ravine behind the fort and the three other forts in the rear which command Fort Stedman? Do you think you can carry those three forts by assault after General Grant's army has been aroused by your movements?"

"Those forts, General, cannot be taken by direct assault when fully

manned, except at great sacrifice to our troops. In front of them is a net work of abatis which makes a direct advance upon them extremely difficult. There is, however, an open space in the rear of them, and if I can reach that space in the darkness with a sufficient number of men to overpower the guards, I can take those three forts also, without heavy loss. I suggest that we attempt their capture by a legitimate stratagem; if that fails, then at dawn to rush with all the troops available toward Grant's left, meeting emergencies as best we can. To accomplish much by such a movement, you would have to send me nearly or quite one-half of your army. I greatly prefer to try the stratagem, the success of which depends on a number of contingencies.'

"He asked me to state fully each step in the programme, and I continued:

"During the week of investigation I have learned the name of every officer of rank in my front. I propose to select three officers from my corps, who are to command each a body of 100 men. These officers are to assume the names of three Union officers who are in and near Fort Stedman. When I have carried Fort Stedman, each of these selected officers is to rush in the darkness to the rear with his 100 men, shouting: The Rebels have carried Fort Stedman and our front lines. They are to maintain no regular order, but each body of 100 is to keep close to its leader. As these three officers strike the line of infantry in the rear of the fort and at different points, they will be halted; but each of them will at once represent himself as the Union officer whose name he bears, and is to repeat: The Rebels have captured our works, and I am ordered by General McLaughlin to rush back to the fort in the rear and hold it at all hazards.

"Each body of 100 men will thus pass the supporting line of Union infantry and go to the rear of the fort to which I will direct his leader. They are to enter, overpower the Union guards, and take possession of the fort. Thus the three forts will be captured.'

"General Lee asked if I thought my officers would each be able in the darkness to find the fort which he was seeking. I replied:

"That depends, General, upon my ability to get proper guides. The trees have been cut down, the houses have been burned, and the whole topography of that portion of the field so changed that it will require men who are thoroughly familiar with the locality to act as guides. I have no such men in my corps, and without proper guides my three detachments will be sacrificed after taking Fort Stedham and passing the rear line of infantry.'

Again there was a long discussion of the chances and the serious difficulties in this desperate adventure. These were fully recognized by General Lee, as they had been by myself when the successive steps in the undertaking were formulated in my own mind. He said in substance: 'If you think after careful consideration, that you can probably carry Fort Stedman, and then get your three companies of 100 through the line of supporting infantry, I will endeavor to find among the Virginia volunteers three men whose homes were on

that part of the field where the rear forts stand, to act as guides to your three officers. I do not know of such men now, but will at once make search for them.'

"He directed me to proceed with the selection of my men for the different parts of the programme, but not to notify them until he had made search for the guides and had thought the whole plan over. Twenty-four hours later occurred the final conference before the attack. With the exception of the last council of war on the night before the surrender, I believe this conference on the night of March 23, 1865, was the most serious and impressive in my experience. General Lee had thought of all the chances; he had found three men, whom he did not know in person, but who were recommended for the three guides; he had selected different troops to send me from other corps, making, with mine, nearly one-half of his army, and had decided that we should make one supreme effort to break the cordon tightening around us. These troops were to come from Longstreet's and A. P. Hill's corps. A body of cavalry was to be sent me, which, in case we succeeded in getting into the three rear forts, was to ride across the broken gap at Fort Stedman, and then gallop to the rear, destroy Grant's railroad and telegraph lines, and cut away his pontoons across the river, while the infantry swept down the rear of the Union intrenchments.

"With full recognition by both the commander and myself of the hopelessness of our cause if we waited longer on General Grant's advance, and also of the great hazard in moving against him, the tremendous undertaking was ordered.

"All night my troops were moving and concentrating behind Colquitt's Salient. For hours Mrs. Gordon sat in her room in Petersburg, tearing strips of white cloth to tie across the breasts of the leading detachments, that they might recognize each other in the darkness and in the hand-to-hand battle expected at the Federal breastworks and inside the fort.

"The fifty keen-edged axes were placed in the hands of the fifty brave and stalwart fellows who were to lead the column and hew down Grant's obstructions. The strips of white cloth were tied upon them, and they were ready for the desperate plunge.

"The chosen 300, in three companies, under the three officers bearing names of Union officers, were also bedecked with the white cotton Confederate scarfs. To each of these companies was assigned one of the three selected guides. I explained to the 300 men the nature of their duties, and told them that, in addition to the joy it would give them to aid in giving victory to the army, I would see to it, if the three forts were captured, that each of them should have a thirty days' furlough and a silver medal. Although the rear forts were not captured, the failure was not the fault of the 300; and even to this day, nearly forty years afterward, I occasionally receive applications for the medal, accompanied by the statement that I need not trouble myself to get the furlough, as they received that some days later at Appomattox.

"The hour for the assault (4 a. m.) arrived. The column of attack was arranged in the following order: the 50 axemen in front, and immediately

behind and close to them the selected 300. Next came the different commands of infantry who were to move in compact column close behind the 300, the cavalry being held in reserve until the way for them was cleared.

"While my preparations were progressing I received from General Lee the following note, which is here given because it was written with his own hand, and because it expresses the earnest prayer for our success which came from his burdened heart, and which he could not suppress even in this short semi-official communication:

4:30 P. M., Hd. Qr. (24) March, '65.

General:—I have received yours of 2:30 P. M. and telegraphed for Pickett's Division, but I do not think it will reach here in time. Still we will try. If you need more troops one or both of Heth's brigades can be called to Colquitt's Salient and Wilcox's to the Baxter road. Dispose of the troops as needed. I pray that a merciful God will grant us success and deliver us from our enemies. Yours truly,

R. E. LEE.

Genl. J. B. Gordon, etc.

P. S.—The Cavalry is ordered to report to you at Halifax road and Norfolk R. R. Iron Bridge at 3 A. M. tomorrow. W. F. Lee to be in vicinity of Monk's corner Road at 6 A. M.

"All things ready, I stood at the top of the breastworks, with no one at my side except a single private soldier with rifle in hand, who was to fire the signal of the headlong rush. This night charge on the fort was to be across the intervening space covered with ditches, in one of which stood the watchful Federal pickets. There still remained near my works some of the debris of our obstructions, which had not been completely removed and which I feared might retard the rapid exit of my men; and I ordered it cleared away. The noise made by this removal, though silent, attracted the attention of a Union picket who stood on guard only a few rods from me, and he called out:

"What are you doing over there, Johnny? What is that noise? Answer quick or I'll shoot'

"My troops stood in close column, ready for the hazardous rush upon Fort Stedman. While the fraternal dialogue in reference to drawing rations from the corn field was progressing between the Union picket and the resourceful private at my side, the last of the obstructions in my front were removed, and I ordered the private to fire the signal for the assault. He pointed his rifle upward, with his finger on the trigger, but hesitated. His conscience seemed to get hold of him. He was going into the fearful charge, and he evidently did not feel disposed to go into eternity with the lie on his lips, although it might be a permissible war lie, by which he had thrown the Union picket off his guard. He evidently felt that it was hardly fair to take advantage of the generosity and soldierly sympathy of his foe, who had so magnanimously assured him that he would not be shot while drawing his rations from the little corn field. His hesitation surprised me, and I again ordered: 'Fire your gun, sir.' He at once called to his kind-hearted foe and said: 'Hello, Yank! Wake up; we are going to shell the woods. Look out; we are coming.' And with this effort to satisfy his conscience and even up accounts with the Yankee picket, he fired the shot and rushed forward in the darkness.

"As the solitary signal shot rang out in the stillness, my alert pickets, who had crept close to the Union sentinels, sprang like sinewy Ajaxes upon them and prevented the discharge of a single alarm shot. Had these faithful Union sentinels been permitted to fire alarm guns, my dense columns, while rushing upon the fort, would have been torn into fragments by the heavy guns. Simultaneously with the seizing and silencing of the Federal sentinels, my stalwart axemen leaped over our breastworks, closely followed by the selected 300 and the packed column of infantry. Although it required but a few minutes to reach the Union works, those minutes to me were like hours of suspense and breathless anxiety; but soon was heard the thud of the heavy axes as my brave fellows slashed down the Federal obstructions. The next moment the infantry sprang upon the Union breastworks and into the fort, overpowering the gunners before their destructive charges could be emptied into the mass of the Confederates. They turned this captured artillery upon the flanking lines on each side of the fort, clearing the Union breastworks of their defenders for some distance in both directions. Up to this point, the success had exceeded my most sanguine expectations. We had taken Fort Stedman and a long line of breast works on either side. We had captured nine heavy canon, eleven mortars, nearly 1,000 prisoners, including General McLaughlin, with the loss of less than a half dozen men. One of these fell upon the works, pierced through the body by a Federal bayonet, one of the few men thus killed in the four years of war. I was in the fort myself, and relieved General McLaughlin by assuming command of Fort Stedman.

"From the Fort I sent word to General Lee, who was on a hill in the rear, that we were in the works and that the 300 were on their way to the lines in the rear. Soon I received a message from one of these three officers, I believe General Lewis of North Carolina, that he had passed the line of Federal infantry without trouble by representing himself as Colonel \_\_\_\_\_, of the Hundredth Pennsylvania, but that he could not find his fort, as the guide had been lost in the rush upon Stedman. I soon received a similar message from the other two, and so notified General Lee.

"Daylight was coming. Through the failure of the three guides, we had failed to occupy the three forts in the rear, and they were now filled with Federals. Our wretched railroad trains had broken down, and the troops who were coming to my aid did not reach me. The full light of the morning revealed the gathering forces of Grant and the great preponderance of his numbers. It was impossible for me to make further headway with my isolated corps, and General Lee directed me to withdraw. This was not easily accomplished. Foiled by the failure of the guides, deprived of the great bodies of Infantry which Lee ordered to my support. I had necessarily stretched out my corps to occupy the intrenchments which we had captured. The other troops were expected to arrive and join in the general advance. The breaking down of the trains and the non-arrival of these heavy supports left me to battle alone with Grant's gathering and overwhelming forces, and at the same time to draw in my own lines toward Fort Stedman. A consuming fire

on both flanks and front during this withdrawal caused a heavy loss to my command. I myself was wounded, but not seriously, in recrossing the space over which we had charged in the darkness. Among the disabled was the gallant Brigadier-General Philip Cook of Georgia, who after the war represented his people in the United States Congress.

“When the retreat to our works had ended, a report reached me that an entire Confederate regiment had not received the order to withdraw, and was still standing in the Union breastworks, bravely fighting. It was necessary to send them orders or to leave them to their fate. I called my staff around me, and explained the situations and the extreme danger the officer would encounter in carrying that order. I stated to them that the pain I experienced in sending one of them on so perilous a mission was greater than I could express. Every one of them quickly volunteered to go; but Thomas G. Jones of Alabama, insisted that as he was the youngest and had no special responsibilities, it should fall to his lot to incur the danger. I bade him good-bye with earnest prayers that God would protect him, and without an apparent tremor he rode away. A portion of the trip was though a literal furnace of fire, but he passed through it, both going and returning, without a scratch.

“This last supreme effort to break the hold of General Grant upon Petersburg and Richmond was the expiring struggle of the Confederate giant, whose strength was nearly exhausted and whose limbs were heavily shackled by the most onerous conditions. Lee knew, as we all did that the chances against us were as a hundred is to one; but we remembered how George Washington, with his band of ragged rebels, had won American independence through trials and sufferings and difficulties, and although they were far less discouraging and insurmountable than those around us, they were nevertheless many and great. It seemed better, therefore, to take the one chance, though it might be one in a thousand, rather than to stand still while the little army was being depleted, its vitality lessening with each setting sun, and its life gradually ebbing, while the great army in its front was growing and strengthening day by day. To wait was certain destruction; it could not be worse if we tried and failed. The accidents and mishaps which checked the brilliant assault made by my brave men, and which rendered their further advance impossible, could not have been anticipated. But for those adverse happenings, it would seem that we might have won on that single chance.

“This spasm of Confederate aggressive vigor inaugurated the period of more than two weeks of almost incessant battle, beginning on the morning of March 25th with the charge of my troops at Petersburg, and ending with the last charge of Lee’s army, made by those same men on the morning of April 9th at Appomattox.”

It is not the intention of the writer to give a full history of the battle of Fort Stedman, but merely to describe that portion of the battle in which the Third Division took part. To understand the situation we must know that there was a series of forts, batteries and entrenchments, extending in a 3-4

circle around the city of Petersburg, reaching from the Appomattox River on the right to the South Side Railroad, which ran from Petersburg to Lynchburg, on the left,—a distance probably of 12 miles. These fortifications were occupied by the Army of the Potomac. Opposed to them was an equally strong line of defense occupied by the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The nearest Union forts were within two miles of the city of Petersburg itself; and the first Union fort on the right, situated on the Appomattox River, was Fort McGilvery. This fort was connected by strong entrenchments with battery No. 9; then by more etrenchments to Battery No. 10, which in turn was connected in the same manner to Fort Stedman. To the left of Fort Stedman was Battery No. 11 and Battery No. 12, likewise connected by fortifications to Fort Haskell. And as these forts and batteries were all of the line within the Fort Stedman fight, it will not be necessary to mention the forts still further on the left.

We must remember that General Gordon states that, finding the enemy in superior force, General Lee ordered him to withdraw. The conditions of the Federal forces when the enemy had captured Fort Stedman,—Battery No. 10 and Batteries Nos. 11 and 12—were as follows:

Battery No. 9 and the troops at that point held fast and were pouring a destructive fire into the left flank of the enemy; Fort Haskell and the troops stationed there held fast and were pouring a destructive fire into the enemy's right flank; but, as a matter of fact, in Gordon's front there was no infantry to prevent him from moving forward and capturing Meade's station and the Military Railroad, except the 200th and 209th regiments of the The Third Division. And there was in addition only the Dunn House Battery and Fort Friend. A rapid advance by General Gordon would have taken his men out of the destructive enfilading fire which was making such havoc in his ranks. Gordon probably had 4,000 men whom he could have put into the assaulting column, and he could still have retained enough of his troops to have protected his flanks. The 200th and 209th regiments had probably a total of 1200 men.

As soon as General Hartranft was advised of the attack on Fort Stedman, he galloped to the field of action, and sent his staff officers to his various regiments, ordering them to come to the battlefield on the double-quick. The 200th and 209th were almost directly in the rear of Fort Stedman and were probably half a mile away. Arriving on the battlefield, General Hartranft was quick to perceive the situation and as prompt to act. He saw the gap in the Union line now occupied by the enemy; he saw the enemy turning the guns which they had captured in Fort Stedman and Batteries Nos. 10 and 11 against our line; he saw the Confederate forces in superior numbers advancing towards Meade's Station, and the Military Railroad. He did not hesitate a moment to throw his 200th and 209th regiments into the breach; he did not wait to be attacked—instead he attacked. The 209th was ordered to the right of the 200th, in the hope that it could connect with troops still further to the right, and get a line established there. The 200th advanced most gallantly against the overwhelming

forces of the enemy. They were exposed to a withering fire of musketry and grape and canister, and lost over 117 men in less than twenty minutes. They were thrown back by the overwhelming odds against them, but when again ordered to charge, they assailed the enemy with the greatest bravery, and when again repulsed by superior numbers, they took up a line under cover of some old entrenchments. There they stayed; and neither Gordon's superior numbers, nor his heavy battery fire, could move them an inch.

The 209th regiment, to the right, was less exposed; but from behind some defences they kept the enemy from advancing on their front:

While these two regiments were holding the Confederates at bay, General Hartranft had placed the 205th, the 207th and the 208th in a ravine and on the right flank of the advancing enemy who had captured Batteries 11 and 12. All of Hartranft's regiments were up, and were now in action except the 211th regiment whose camp was 5 miles away. They were coming as fast as blood and sinew could bring them. General Hartranft must have had an anxious hour while awaiting the arrival of this last regiment. Like Napoleon looking for Grouchy, like Wellington looking for Blucher, Hartranft cast his eyes in the direction from which he expected the troops of the 211th. The question was, could the 200th and 209th hold the enemy in check until he got his reinforcement up. At last his eye cleared: the 211th was in sight: It must have been an inspiration to the gallant soldier at that trying moment, when as he says in his article on Fort Stedman, "At 7:30 o'clock the long line of the 211th lifted itself with cadenced step over the brow of the hill and swept down in magnificent style toward Fort Stedman. Now he was ready to assume the offensive. Placing the 211th regiment in regimental front on a high hill overlooking the battlefield and in full sight of the enemy, he told them to flaunt their colors in the face of the foe, and so to attract their fire. In this endeavor they succeeded, for the first shell from the enemy killed and wounded several men in the ranks.

When the men had recovered their wind, General Hartranft sent orders to all of his regiments to advance and retake Fort Stedman and the captured line. The advance of the 211th was to be the signal for the general charge. At the given signal the men in each regiment rushed to the assault. With a great shout they charged home, closed with the enemy, recaptured Fort Stedman and all of the line lost in the morning; and they recaptured all of the cannon taken by the enemy, took 1945 prisoners, including 72 commissioned officers, and captured seven stand of colors.

The loss to the enemy in the whole battle was 2681, killed and wounded.

For the winning of such a great victory General Hartranft was promoted on the field of action to be a Major General, and in recognition of what the new Division had done, General Parke, the Corps Commander, issued the following complimentary order:

"Headquarters, Ninth Army Corps,  
March 26th, 1865.

"General Orders

No. 3.

"At four a. m. on March 25th instant, the enemy, having massed three Divisions in front of Fort Stedman, in the line of the third Brigade, First Division, of this Corps, by a sudden rush broke the picket line, and after a gallant defence by the garrison of Fort Stedman, overpowered it and gained possession of the fort and a portion of the parapet on either side. He then assaulted Fort Haskell and Battery 9, but was repulsed with much loss. He attempted to advance toward the railroad, but was speedily checked, and First, Third Division, coming up, he was forced back to the Fort. From thence he was soon driven by a charge of the Third Division and the Second and Third Brigades, First Division, with the loss of many killed and wounded, 1941 prisoners, including 71 commissioned officers and nine stand colors, and the entire line seized by him was reoccupied.

"The Major General commanding congratulates the Corps on the auspicious result. It will be a source of pride to him and them that so heavy and desperate an attack upon their line was repelled by them before the arrival of the supports promptly and cordially furnished from the other Corps. The gallantry and steadiness of the troops engaged, which so brilliantly retrieved a momentary disaster and converted it into a victory, merit and receive his warmest gratitude and commendation.

"The Artillery in position bearing on the line held by the enemy and the reserve Batteries under the personal supervision of Brevt. Brigadier General Tidball, chief of Artillery, did prompt and very efficient service, and inflicted severe damage upon the enemy.

"To Brigadier General J. F. Hartranft, Commanding Third Division, who had charge of the assault, great credit is due, and his Division is specially congratulated on the distinguished success which their good conduct has met with in this their first engagement.

"The steadiness and courage of the troops upon the flanks of Fort Stedman, who held their position despite the breaking of their line, are deserving of great praise, and the Major General Commanding takes occasion to impress upon the Corps the lesson enforced by the example of their brave comrades of the First Division, that a line broken is not carried, and that by promptly rallying and tenaciously holding the position so flanked, the enemy may be made to pay dearly for his temerity.

JOHN G. PARKE,  
Major General Commanding.

After the battle a truce was made to permit the removal of the wounded and the burial of the dead. The Third Division had gone into the fight a body of untried soldiers; they had come out of it recognized as a fighting division.

While every regiment in the Third Division had in the Stedman fight done the duty assigned to it and had done it in a most gallant manner, there is no question but that the honors of the day belonged to the 200th. They had been given the place of honor, and they had covered themselves with glory. With probably less than 600 men they had been ordered to charge a victorious enemy probably seven times their superior in numbers. They were required to make this charge under a withering fire of musketry and artillery; they had been checked by the very weight of the lead thrown against them; they had rallied and had charged again after losing 117 men in less than twenty minutes of fighting; and then, securing some slight protection, they had stopped the enemy in their tracks and had held them there until Hartranft could get the other regiments on to the field. Nothing could exceed the gallantry of their advance, except the dogged pertinacity which the regiment showed in holding fast after being so terribly cut to pieces.

It is a hundred years since the Battle of Waterloo. When one goes over the field today he is told "Here is the place where General Pach advanced before the 92nd Regiment, and said: 'You must charge all of these troops in your front, and do it in your own way.'" He is shown the place where the French grenadiers of the Guard died, but would not surrender. He is told of the prodigious acts of valor performed on the field of battle. Waterloo was a much greater battle than the Battle of Fort Stedman; but I believe that the deeds of valor performed by the officers and men of the 200th regiment at Fort Stedman were equal to those performed by the troops at Waterloo. The bravery of the 200th and 209th regiments, which held the enemy's advance in check, lost the battle for General Gordon and won it for General Hartranft.

While the place of honor had been assigned to the 200th, it is also to be shared with the 209th. They were ordered to charge the same enemy, in the same superior numbers, as were the 200th; they were exposed to the same destructive fire of musketry and artillery. But Colonel Frederick had wisely chosen ground which gave better protection to his men, and therefore their loss was not so great and they did not receive the same intensity of the attack as did the 200th. They, like the 200th, stopped the enemy in their tracks and held them there until the 211th arrived.

The 205th, 207th and 208th had been thrown into a ravine in front of the captured lines, and gave a good account of themselves by pouring a flanking fire into the enemy and helped to prevent the further advance of Gordon's troops. In the final charge for the recovery of the captured line, every regiment in the Division performed its part with great bravery and great gallantry.

The troops were now returned to their several camps but hardly had they had time to wash the stains of battle from their persons and close up the shattered ranks, when they were called to perform new deeds of valor.

General Grant's plan at this time was to overlap Lee's right flank. If Gordon had succeeded at Fort Stedman, Grant would have been obliged to delay his flanking plans; but Gordon having failed, Grant pushed forward his left.

General Grant found it necessary to order an assault on Lee's centre (although the fortifications were considered impregnable) to prevent Lee from moving all of his forces to attack Grant's left wing. The place selected for the assault was Fort Sedgwick on the Union line. As I have sketched before the line of forts from the Appomattox to Fort Haskell, I will now give those only still further to the Union left. Next to Fort Haskell was Morton, then Fort Michel; then Fort Rice; then Fort Sedgwick; and then Fort Davis. Fort Sedgwick covered the front over which the Third Division made their attack on April 2nd. All of these forts were connected by batteries and a solid line of heavy entrenchments. Fort Sedgwick was on the well-known Jerusalem plank-road. It was in such an ex-

posed position that it had been named by the soldiers "Fort Hell." Opposite to it, and half a mile distant, was the Confederate Fort Mahone, called by the Confederate soldiers "Fort Damnation." The ground sloped from each of these forts across an open field to a little stream which ran about equi-distant from each fort. Along this depression were the two picket lines, almost in touch with one another, hardly a stone's throw apart. Both Fort Sedgwick and Fort Mahone was surrounded on the three exposed sides by a deep ditch filled with water; each fort was protected by abatis and *chevaux-de-frise*. These positions were considered impregnable to frontal attacks.

When General Hartranft received his orders to prepare for an assault at this point he assembled his field and staff officers and explained to them his plan of battle in great detail. General Hartranft was a very careful officer as well as a bold commander. He had made models of *chevaux-de-frise*, and abatis; he showed the commanders of the pioneer corps how to cut the wire at the intersection of the panels of the *chevaux-de-frise* and how to get the gaps open as quickly as possible; he showed them just where the axes should fall on the abatis to be most effective; he had the distances marked between the forts, between the lines of abatis, between the *chevaux-de-frise* and between the picket lines; and he explained to all of the officers how necessary it would be to take the assaulting column to their position in absolute silence; how much depended on capturing all of the enemy's pickets, so that no alarm could be carried to the forts.

Then he explained that the troops would need to be formed in column with regimental front. They would have to be in close column, to save ground; the men might have to lie close to our picket line under a heavy general fire of shot and shell for several hours before the assault would be made. He cautioned all of the officers to have wounded men removed quickly to the rear through the sunken trenches used by the picket detail, and so to avoid alarming the enemy.

The General then said: "Gentlemen, at the given signal, to be arranged for hereafter, a heavy advance line will capture the enemy's picket; at the same time the pioneer corps will move rapidly forward and make a way through the *chevaux-de-frise* and abatis for the assaulting column to pass through. The troops are to keep close to the axe-men, but are not to make any noise until the gaps are open. Then they are to charge; no guns are to be fired; they are to depend absolutely upon the bayonet."

Before the General had finished his instructions, the face of every officer in the room showed how absolutely certain they felt that failure and defeat would follow such an attempt. But General Hartranft closed with these words: "As impossible as the result may seem to you, gentlemen, I feel sure that if the troops will behave with the same bravery in this fight that they showed at Fort Stedman, we will succeed." The faces of the officers cleared. They were at once inspired by the confidence of their General, and questions came from all directions, asking just how such and such a difficulty should be met.

The next few days were not pleasant to look forward to. On the night of March 30th the First Brigade was massed in the rear of the Avery House (Division Headquarters), and the Second Brigade in the rear of Fort Prescott, preparatory to being led to their assaulting positions. The Union and Confederate guns along the whole line commenced at 10 o'clock in the evening such a bombardment as had never been seen on that line before. Colonel John C. Tidball, Chief of Artillery, says, in his official report, that never before had so much powder been expended within the same length of time. The cannonade lasted from 10 p. m. to 1 a. m. Three hundred guns and mortars filled the air with shot and shell. The constant hail made it most uncomfortable for the troops; for, although the firing was not very destructive, it is exceedingly nerve-racking for men to lie for hours under such a fire, in anticipation of going to the assault.

At 2:45 a. m. the troops returned to their camps. Things were not yet ready on the extreme left, so the assault was delayed.

On April 1st, at 11 p. m., the Division was marched to a position near Fort Sedgwick. At 3 a. m. the assaulting column moved to the slope in front of the fort and as near as possible to our own picket line. The men stole into their positions in absolute silence. The 2nd brigade were assigned the post of honor, together with the 208th regiment from the first brigade. The 207th were the first in the column of regimental front; then in close order came the 205th, 211th, and 208th; the 200th and 209th were held in reserve. At 4 a. m. all of the guns on our front opened up a terrific fire over the heads of our men in the assaulting column, who were lying down. At 4:20 a. m. the guns stopped firing; there was the stillness of death, and the men knew that the time had come.

At 4:30 there were three quick shots,—the signal to advance. A strong body of troops rushed forward and captured the enemy's pickets: The pioneer corps, with drawn axes, were behind them, and the assaulting column was close to the axe-men. So far everything had been done quietly and effectively; but at the first stroke of the axes on the *chevaux-de-frise* the enemy knew what was coming, and were ready for us. They opened up a most terrific fire of musketry, grape, canister, and shrapnel. Our men were soon through the openings made for them by the pioneer corps, but in passing through these gaps the regimental formations were thrown into confusion. The men, however, pressed intrepidly forward. Once past the *chevaux-de-frise* and abatis, the troops arose to the assault. It was necessary to get to close quarters with the enemy as quickly as possible, as the men had only the bayonet to depend upon. For a moment the men were protected from the full force of the enemy's fire by the depression in the ground, but as they advanced further up the hill they were met by a sheet of lead which threatened to destroy every man in the assaulting column. Great gaps were made in the close-formed ranks; heads were cut off as if mowed down by an immense scythe; it did not seem possible for the men to advance against such a withering fire; nevertheless, they pressed forward with a desperate courage that was magnificent.

The men moved forward rapidly, and were soon out of the worst of the artillery fire, as the guns in the fort could not be depressed enough to reach them when close; but they were now opposed by a destructive fire of musketry. It was but a moment before our men were up to the enemy's breastwork, and then a fierce hand-to-hand fight took place until the enemy were killed or captured, or until they retreated to their secondary line of defence. That desperateness of the hand-to-hand fighting is proved by the fact that our men captured three standards on the enemy's entrenchments.

The head of the column struck the Confederate line to the right of Fort Mahone. It then divided; part of the column passed to the left and captured Fort Mahone in flank, and part of it passed to the right and captured Miller's Salient in flank. The 200th and 209th came forward at this point and helped in this attack, with Harriman's brigade from the First Division. The gap which had been opened included Miller's Salient on the right, with four guns; Fort Mahone on the left, with four guns, and the entrenchments between them,—a distance probably of one-eighth of a mile. Along these entrenchments were posted field batteries, which upon the advance of our men retreated to a formidable secondary line of defence.

When our men had captured the enemy's line, then, for the first time that morning, did they pour a volley of musketry into the retreating foe. The enemy fell back to a new line of forts and fortifications, which they had carefully prepared for just such an emergency. From this new line they opened up a fierce fire from their artillery, field guns and infantry.

Our victory consisted in the capture of Fort Mahone, Miller's Salient, and the fortifications connecting them, about 400 prisoners, eight cannon, and three stand of colors. Our column had met with such a severe loss, and was so shattered and so scattered, that it was not deemed advisable to attempt an assault on the second line.

It has been said that Lee's line was very thin at the point where we attacked. Whether this be so or not, I do know this; that he had plenty of men to work all of his artillery, and a good force of men were collected behind the new defences. The fact that we captured 400 prisoners shows that the line was fairly well manned.

The line which we had captured was almost untenable. Some of the enemy's batteries held fast on the flanks of the gap which we had opened, and from that position were pouring a most destructive fire on our men. Later these batteries were silenced by a concentrated fire from some of our guns collected at Fort Rice and Fort Davis; but while the firing lasted it was most destructive. The guns we had captured from the enemy were soon turned against their former masters; artillerists and ammunition were carried forward, and we soon had a formidable line to oppose to the defensive line of the enemy, which outclassed us in the heavier calibre of their guns. Fort Mahone was opened up on the side toward the enemy's second line, and their guns commanded it. It therefore became necessary for our men to fight from the traverses in the fort.

At 11 a. m. the enemy made a determined effort to retake the captured line: it was repulsed, with great loss to themselves. At 1 p. m. they made

another determined effort to retake the line: again they were repulsed with great loss. At 3 p. m. General Lee ordered a superior force to attack our much exposed left flank at Fort Mahone. The flank crumbled away, and we lost some prisoners; but reinforcements coming up strengthened and stiffened this flank, and before another assault could be arranged General Lee had ordered the attacking forces to be withdrawn.

From this time until dark both sides kept up a steady fire. Under cover of night the troops of the Third Division were slightly withdrawn in reserve of the fighting front, and new troops took their places. Our men had been fighting hard since 4:20 a. m.,—fighting for over 16 hours. Efforts were made to reorganize the regimental formation, but the exhausted troops dropped to the ground, the living sleeping quietly beside those who had fallen on the field of battle and now slept the sleep of death.

The *chevaux-de-frise* surrounding Fort Mahone was pushed in front of our new line, gaps were filled up in the entrenchments which had been demolished by cannon fire, and the line was put in shape for defense on the morrow. A desultory fire was kept up between the opposing forces during the night.

The honors of the day fell to the pioneer corps, the second brigade and the 208th regiment, which had been designated as the assaulting column, and the confidence reposed in them had been amply justified.

I have always thought it a generous act on the part of General Hartranft to give the post of honor to the Second Brigade. He knew that the success of the attack depended on the staunchness of the head of the column; he had tried the 200th and 209th and had found them true as tempered steel; naturally he might have wanted them at the brunt of the battle; but he showed his absolute confidence in the 207th when he put them at the post of danger. And it seemed to me, as I saw the Third Division on this attack, that they were a column of intrepid determined, and brave men, who moved with a rapidity and force that no storm of musketry, canister, or grape could stop. Most of the men carried their guns at a trail, ready to use the bayonet, to use the gun as a club, or to use it to send a volley after the enemy if they succeeded in driving them out of their works. To stop seemed instant death: their only safety was to get up and grapple with the foe. The line officers led their troops with the greatest gallantry; the men responded nobly. The pioneer corps had orders to make the gaps and retire. But proof that they went forward on the fighting line is shown by the fact that Lieut. A. A. Alexander, their leader, was mortally wounded on the enemy's ramparts. While great credit is due to General Hartranft for the arrangement of every detail, the victory belonged to the men. It was the men's fight.

The 200th and 209th had been sent to the attack with Harriman's brigade, to the right of the Third Division at Miller's Salient. They were on the fighting line during the whole day, and they amply justified their name for valor established at Fort Stedman. The Third Division had won their second great victory against what were considered impossible odds. Gen-

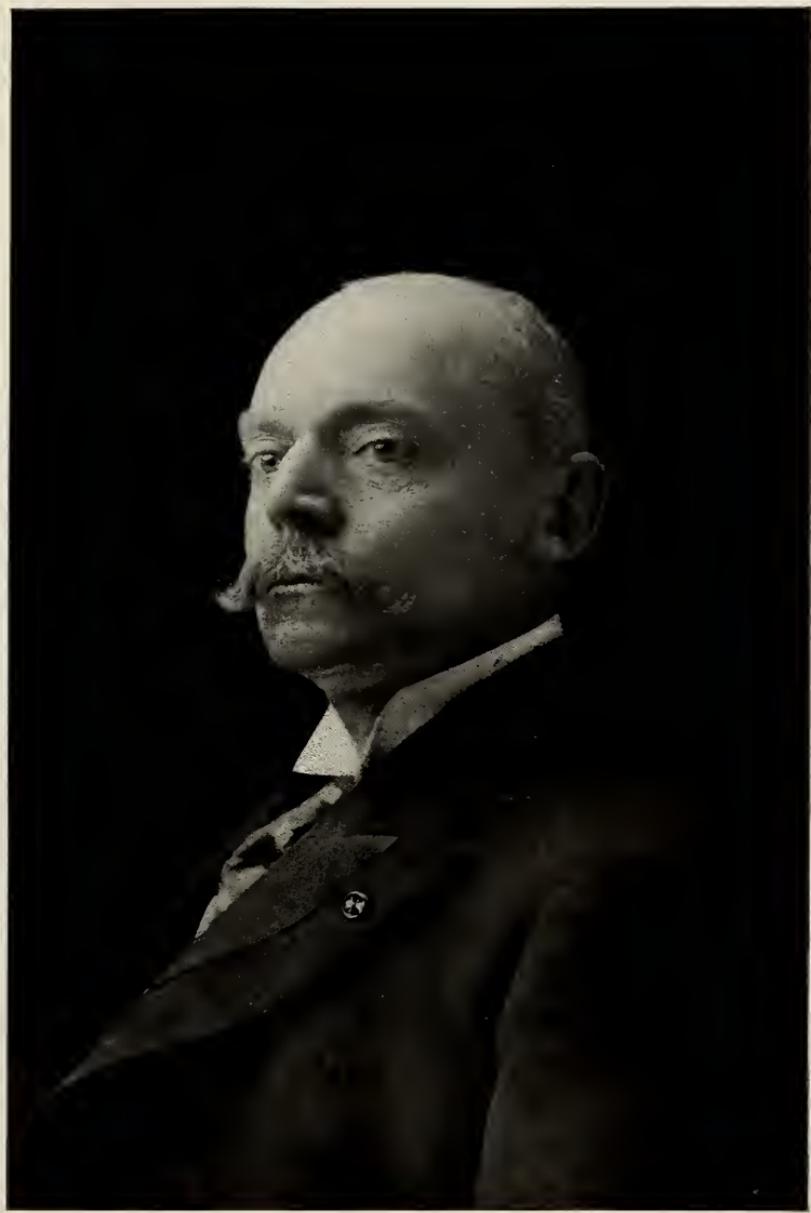
tral Hartranft says, in his official report, that probably the 207th and 211th had the severest test. The official records show that the 211th Regiment captured and turned in a flag belonging to the 45th North Carolina Regiment, and one belonging to the 61st Alabama Regiment. This is proof that they grappled with the enemy at close quarters. The 205th Regiment report shows that they also had captured a flag.

At 3 A. M. April 3rd, explosions were heard in the direction of Petersburg. The explosions indicated a withdrawal of the enemy. Our men were at once on the *qui vive*. At 4 a. m. General Hartranft pushed forward a skirmishing line, which found the enemy's lines abandoned,—some field guns still in their embrasures—a few dummies, to deceive our own men—and some dead whom the enemy had been unable to bury. The skirmish line moved rapidly forward: it arrived at the outskirts of the city at 4:30 a. m., and then the columns of regiments marched, with flying colors, through the city of Petersburg,—the valient "Cockade City" which had held the Army of the Potomac at bay for over ten months.

Col. Ely, of Wilcox's first division of the Ninth Army Corps, had marched into the city by the river road, a shorter route, and to him the city was surrendered. But there is no doubt that General Hartranft's Division marched into the South end of the city at the same time that Col. Ely entered on the North side.

The 211th Regiment was immediately sent to guard the bridges over the Appomattox, and to put out some fires which had been started by the retreating enemy. The 209th was ordered to get in touch with the Sixth Corps on the left of our position. Wilcox's Division was assigned to guard the city. The Third Division were returned to their camps, and were made ready for marching orders. By 3 p. m. the whole Division again marched through the city and thence followed the South Side Railroad in pursuit of the enemy. That night they camped at Sutherlands, eight miles from Petersburg. The Division never again came in fighting contact with the enemy. Grant's troops on the left were in the field of action, so the Division.—plodded doggedly along through Nottaway Court House until they reached Burksville Junction, and there they received the news of Lee's surrender.

On April 20th the men started on their return trip to City Point, whence they were transported by boat to their new camps near Alexandria, Va. Now began the disintegration of the Division. General Hartranft was placed in charge of the Lincoln conspirators, and General John J. Curtin assumed command of the Division; Colonels of regiments were promoted to Brigadiers for gallant services rendered at Fort Stedman and Petersburg, and were assigned to staff duties. The men were especially fitted for the part they were now to take in the great review of the Grand Army. Although the ranks were thinned and decimated, I am convinced that our great War Governor, Andrew G. Curtin, felt proud of his men of the Third Division, as with martial tread and alignment true they swept past, flaunting their tattered flags which he had entrusted to their care, and which



Major A. C. Huidekoper, of Meadville, Pennsylvania, Chief Marshall of Parade at the unveiling of the monuments at Forts Stedman and Mahone.



they had carried so proudly to victory. Governor Curtin's stand was reached before the grand reviewing stand occupied by General Grant.

Corroborative testimony is always acceptable and strengthening in a case like this especially when it comes from an officer outside of the Third Division.

Major Edward P. Brown who served in the 4th Rhode Island infantry, a most cultured, generous and brave officer, who had participated in the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, the seige of Suffolk, Virginia, the mine explosion of the crater at Petersburg, Virginia, and who had participated in the fights at Welden Railroad, Peoples Farm, Dalby Millls, and who served in the trenches before Petersburg, Virginia, for over eight months says in a letter he wrote to the Battlefield commission.

"To the Pennsylvania Regiments of Hartranft's Division, more than to any other body of men, this country owes a debt of gratitude for the wonderful performance at Fort Mahone. During all of my careers in the army of the Potomac, commencing with early in July 1862, I never saw more gallant and heroic conduct than was exhibited by the officers and men of that division."—Huidekoper.

After the grand review, accounts were hastily made out, the rolls for final discharge were prepared, and on June 2, 1865, the men of the Third Division passed into civil life.

In some respects the Third Division had an unique experience in the annals of the War. From the time they entered the trenches at Bermuda Hundred they were never out from under the fire of the enemy's guns, either by day or by night, until after Lee's surrender. They fought two hard battles and won two victories. Some of the greatest assaults in history, such as the charge of Napoleon's guards at Waterloo, or Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, or the assault at the Crater, Petersburg, Va., failed to succeed: the assault of the line at Fort Mahone, considered an impregnable position, was a success. The battle of Fort Stedman and the Petersburg fight at Fort Sedgwick will probahly never receive the credit to which they are entitled in the history of the Civil War. These victories occurred at points so near together and within such a short time before the final surrender of General Lee, that they were engulfed and overshadowed by the bigger events. But any man who was in either the fight at Stedman or Sedgwick is entitled to have his name inscribed high on the scroll which records the deeds of brave men.

## THE SURVIVORS

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By MAJOR ISAAC B. BROWN, 211th

When an army has been disbanded, and its soldiers scattered, it is a difficult problem to write a history of its survivors. Probably the scenes incident to the dawn of peace at Appomattox have never been equalled in the history of the armies of the world. The great Union and Confederate armies stacked arms; the survivors of both the blue and gray extended fraternal greetings, partook of hardtack, and drank from the same canteen, while their invincible and chivalric commanders arranged the details of the surrender, and the dissolution of the Confederate Army began.

The Union Army, flushed with victory, commenced the homeward march, to be soon dissolved and melted away into the ranks of American citizenship, the survivors entered into the various pursuits of life, never again to reassemble as a formidable army at the sound of the nation's inspiring martial music. There was joy at the going home, not however, free from the tinge of sadness for those who remained behind in the long deep blessed sleep of the battlefield's holly ground, such sadness being accentuated by the assassination of Abraham Lincoln just at the close of the great conflict. Thus the great armies of the Union were discharged, and with these armies also went back into civil life the survivors of the Third Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac. This body of men, as is well known, was composed entirely of Pennsylvanians, and constituted an entire division, to the command of which in the fall of 1864 was assigned John Frederick Hartranft, a most distinguished soldier of the Keystone State. All of the troops constituting the division were what was known during the Civil War as 'short term troops,' that is their term of enlistment covered a period of a year, and that the last year of the war.

There was commendable modesty in the conduct of the survivors of this division, as they felt that the veterans of the Civil War who had served for a longer period were first entitled to the commendation of the people, and they did not therefore feel that their organization should be perpetuated, or that they should meet in annual reunions out of deference to those who had rendered longer service to the government in the time of its peril. While this feeling permeated the minds of the survivors of the division, all were conscious of the fact that the duties which had devolved upon them in their one year's service had been discharged with fidelity in time of battle, and with a heroism which all must concede to be of the highest character, and that while other organizations from Pennsylvania may have rendered greater services and suffered greater sacrifices, it was only through the fortunes of war that this occurred, and it may be said that some of the regiments of the division in their one year's service suffered greater losses in battle than some other regiments that rendered three

year's service to the government. For this reason the relentless march of time carried the survivors of the division far into and often past the meridian of life before even an attempt was made too hold either regimental or divisional reunions. This lapse of time produced so marked a change in the appearance of the survivors that even though they may have met, they were not able to recognize each other.

In the summer of 1864, when the boys who so largely constituted the rank and file of the division enlisted, there were many who had not completed their education, but immediately after their return from the war they entered seminaries, colleges and universities, from which many graduated with credit to themselves, and added to their standing as soldiers by receiving diplomas from educational institutions. The greater number, however, of the survivors returned to the farm, the forest, the factories, or to mercantile pursuits, while thousands heard the slogan of the western States 'Westward the star of empire takes its course,' and sought their fortunes in the far west beyond the Mississippi and Missouri, in that then great undeveloped country, there to help develop its material interests and build up the great Pacific Empire, the history of which has been written only since the close of the Civil War.

Occasionally the survivors have gleaned some knowledge of those who had been their comrades, as in the busy whirl of life some have risen to eminence in business, professional or political life. No small number of the survivors have become eminent in the legal, medical and other professions, while others have gained political preferment, many in municipal and state affairs, in the halls of legislation, in the national congress, and in the diplomatic corps of the United States. Others have gained great business success and accumulated fortunes. The greater number, however, have followed conservative lines, and have usually reflected credit upon American citizenship. Like pebbles sown along old ocean's melancholy waste were the survivors of the Division, scattered throughout the broad land, no longer feeling the touch of a comrade's elbow, or hearing the sound of the voices that in the long ago years gladdened them upon the field of action. Thus nearly three decades passed in the onward march of time without any organized reassembling of the Survivors of the Division. During these three decades the old division commander, Gen. Hartranft, had been greatly honored in civil life, having been Auditor General and Chief Executive of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He was prominently mentioned as a candidate for President of the United States, and he had been Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. All of these honors showered upon Hartranft brought happiness to the homes of the Survivors of his old division. For his gallantry in the siege of Petersburg, the carnage of Fort Stedman, and the memorable assault on Fort Mahone, made such a deep impression that the hearts of the survivors throbbed with joy at the honors bestowed upon the worthy life of their commander, and his figure on his famous war horse at the head of his troops was always vivid in their memories.

During the advance of time the Division it is true, had lost its identity. It existed only as a reminiscence in the minds of those who at one time formed it, and in the history of the nation's victorious soldiers. Since the close of the Civil War there have been times when the survivors were conscious of the fact that the nation needed the strong hands of its soldiers to either meet in conflict with other nations, or to assist in making up a formidable army that the nation might be strong enough to assert itself among all the nations of the world, and these survivors would have again gladly responded. There have been times also when a considerable number of the survivors have been conscious of the fact that things have not been going well with the country whose perpetuity they hoped was established by the verdict delivered on the field of Appomattox, and they would have gladly risen in their might to assist in restoring the government to that plane of purity and usefulness in conformity with the ideas that characterized the memorable speech of the immortal Lincoln on the battlefield of Gettysburg in the fall of 1863. However the survivors may have considered the conduct of the government, they have been powerless as an organization to accomplish any results, and have been compelled to exercise their own judgment individually in doing what they could to maintain the purity and integrity of the nation in line with the purposes of the great, pure, devoted and patriotic leaders of the country. In commenting upon the duties of citizenship in relation to governmental affairs, Dean Church is quoted as saying: 'We are like soldiers in a widely extended battlefield, wrapped in obscurity, of which we do not know the plan, of which we seem entirely powerless to control the issues; but we are responsible for our own part, whatever goes on elsewhere, let us not fail in that. The changes of the world which men think they are bringing about, are in the hands of God, With Him, when we have done our duty, let us leave them.' In the great strife the men of the Third Division were a most formidably phalanx, and were able and did control results, but as citizens their possibilities have been limited, yet from the lives they have led they have fully measured up to the standards of citizenship that seems to have been the ideal of Dean Church in the above quotation.

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#### THE RETURN OF THE BATTLE FLAGS.

**F**Ollowing the close of the Civil War the battle flags carried by the Pennsylvania organizations were taken home usually by the regimental commanders, and were not formally turned over to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, whose Governor had presented them to the different organizations at the time of the departure of the troops for the war. Around no emblems of battle on this continent at least was entwined so much interesting history as attaches to the battle flags carried by the Pennsylvania soldiers in the Civil War. The riddled stars and stripes, the shattered and broken staffs, eloquently told of the

carnage in which they had been carried, and which made them worthy of the most careful care on the part of the Commonwealth, that future generations might not only have veneration for those who had borne them on the battlefield, but have increased devotion and loyalty to the government these battle-scarred flags represented. It was therefore decided by those in authority, that on the 4th of July, 1866, a committee from each regimental organization should have the custody of the battle flags, should take them to Philadelphia, and on Independence Day formally turn them over to the Hon. A. G. Curtin, then closing out his last term as Governor of the State. On this occasion the Third Division was represented by a committee from each regiment, and the flags that had been carried in action, were formally handed over to Gov. Curtin, and these with the other Pennsylvania flags now remain in the archives of the Adj. General's Department at Harrisburg. They are a lesson in patriotism, in devotion, in loyalty, and tell the story of bravery in terms more terse than can be written by sage or poet. On the occasion of the return of the battle flags, the Third Division was represented by a detail from each of the six regiments.

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#### THE FIRST REUNION.

**I**N 1889 at Boiling Springs in the County of Cumberland, four of the survivors of the 209th Regiment formulated a plan for a reunion of the survivors of that regiment. These survivors were R. R. Webbert, Milton A. Embick, Richard R. Craighead and William F. Wise. Milton A. Embick was elected secretary, and with his characteristic perseverance and resolution, assisted by his comrades, a very successful reunion was held in the City of Carlisle, on the 25th of March, 1889. At this reunion Gen. Hartranft was present. He rejoiced in the association then formed, and took part in all the deliberations. In speaking at the reunion of this regiment, Gen. Hartranft expressed a desire that arrangements be made for a reunion of all of the regiments that made up the division, and he appointed Milton A. Embick provisional secretary of the division, and authorized him to take such action as he might deem necessary to secure a reunion of the Survivors of the Division in the city of Harrisburg in 1890. The survivors of the 209th Regiment present all expressed a willingness to assist in securing a large assemblage of the survivors, and work was commenced then and there which resulted in a reunion of all of the regiments of the division in the city of Harrisburg, on March 25th, 1890. Gen. Hartranft applied to the Pennsylvania Legislature for permission for the Division to meet in the different departments of the State Government, and in the halls of legislation of the State Capitol. In answer to his request, Gen. J. P. S. Gobin, then State Senator, introduced a resolution which was unanimously passed by both branches of the Legislature, giving the Survivors of the Division the right to use any of the apartments in any of the departments of the State Government, as

well as the Senate and House of Representatives on the occasion of the proposed reunion. (The name of Gen. J. P. S. Gobin has been mentioned, and it would seem ungrateful to mention that name without a slight tribute to him, and a word of commendation for his distinguished services on the battlefields of his country, and in the civil service of the State of Pennsylvania, all of which were characterized by the purest devotion, and the most substantial loyalty to State and nation, and his quick response to the request of Gen. Hartranft in securing the privileges above referred to, endeared him particularly to the Survivors of the Division.)

When the call from their old commander for a reunion was heard, the answer was a most striking response. In Scott's *Lady of the Lake*, the shrill whistle of Roderick Dhu to the Clan-Alpine warriors, was not responded to with more alacrity than was the call of the heroic Hartranft by the Survivors of the Third Division. Yet as Roderick Dhu had gone down in the tragedy so beautifully portrayed by Scott, and was not present to lead his Clan, so too, had Hartranft answered the call of that fate common to all before the time fixed for the assembling of the Division Survivors at their first reunion. Notwithstanding the grief manifested on all sides at the demise of Gen. Hartranft, there was much gladness in the hearts of the Survivors of the Division when on March 25, 1890, for the first time since the close of the Civil War they marched together as regimental and divisional organizations through the streets of the Capitol of the Keystone State.

After the parade, the Survivors marched to the Harrisburg Opera House, where an address of welcome was given by the then Mayor of Harrisburg, which was responded to on the part of the Survivors by Isaac B. Brown, of the 211th Regiment.

At this reunion Col. Fredericks who had acted with great gallantry at the carnage of Ft. Stedman, presided, and was elected President of the Division Association then formed. In many ways there was a gladness about this first reunion which surpassed all others. The renewing of old acquaintances carried with it a satisfaction and a rejoicing which can hardly be excelled by any of the pleasantries of life. At the Camp Fire held in the Opera House in the evening many of the distinguished men of the State were present, and greeted the Survivors of the men who had been commanded by the gallant Hartranft. Gen. John G. Parke, who commanded the 9th Corps in the Army of the Potomac, of which the Third Division was a part, was present, and added to the pleasure of the Survivors, all of whom had a most profound respect for the gallant hero and Christian soldier, General Parke. The principal orator of the evening was Major Wm. H. Hodgkins, of Boston, Mass. He had served with distinction as an officer of the Thirty-sixth Mass., and was one of General Hartranft's most brilliant staff officers. Taps sounded all too soon for this gallant officer and princely gentleman. Gen. Jas. A. Beaver, also a most distinguished soldier of Pennsylvania, was then Governor, and added his greetings to the Survivors of the division. Gen. Louis Wagner, a dis-

tinguished soldier of the Civil War, and eminent in the financial and industrial affairs of the Commonwealth, was also present. There was also present Gen. Thomas J. Stewart, then Secretary of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania.

So delighted were the Survivors who were present with their first reunion, that arrangements were made for a second reunion to be held in the city of York the following year. Among the many very pleasant features of the reunion was the presentation of a heautiful watch to Hon. M. A. Embick, of the 209th Regiment, and secretary of the division organization. This watch was presented to Mr. Embick by his comrades in recognition of the services rendered in securing the attendance of so many of the Survivors of the Division.

At the first reunion there were also present the surviving members of the Hartranft family, consisting of Mrs. Hartranft, her two daughters and two sons, all of whom were admired by the Survivors not only on account of their personal merits, but more particularly because of their relationship to him who was the commander of the old division.

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#### REUNION AT YORK, MARCH 25th, 1891.

ON THIS date the Division assembled in the city of York, through whose streets a portion of the Confederate Army marched in the summer of 1863 on its way to participate in the renowned battle of Gettysburg. From the early hours of the morning of the 25th of March, 1891, the streets of York resounded with the tread of marching squads of the Division, to the strains of martial music, and to the greetings extended by the different regiments of the Division as they passed each other on their way to the quarters to which they had been assigned.

It was a great day in the old town of York, in which at one time during the great struggle for American Independence, the Continental Congress held its session at the time when the starving American Army was encamped on the field of Valley Forge. The most cordial greeting was extended to the Survivors by the citizens and the hospitality exhibited was of a character worthy of emulation. The sentiments of the people towards the Survivors of our Division were accurately set forth in the address of welcome delivered by Hon. D. K. Noell, then Mayor of the city.

Many letters were read by the secretary from survivors of the Division who were unable to be present; also letters from distinguished officials of the Nation and State, and from commanding officers of the Confederate Army. It may be said here that at no reunion of the Third Division has

there ever been any exhibition of enmity or animosity towards those who served on the Confederate side in the great American Conflict. While this is true, there has never been any change of conviction in the minds of the Survivors of the Third Division as to the justness of their cause, or that the South was justified in its attempt to sever the nation. Looking forward to the welfare of the Government of the United States, especially as to its perpetuity, the consensus of opinion has been that in that world renowned conflict both sides were acting from their own convictions in the part they took in the great struggle. So in all our reunions greetings have been extended to and received from Confederate commanders and soldiers in general, and in this way it would seem that much good has been accomplished for the common welfare.

Among the letters read on the occasion of the reunion at York, was one from Gen. Jno. B. Gordon, of Georgia, a most distinguished Confederate soldier, who went into the war as a captain in a Georgia regiment, and rose to the command of one of the corps of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. He was many times wounded, and in the fortunes of war he seemed to be always in the thickest of the fight, but when the war was over, he surrendered on the field of Appomattox, accepted the situation, and during the balance of his life devoted all his physical energies and mental powers to the upbuilding of the government, and the re-uniting of the people of the United States. During the last winter of the war, Gen. Lee placed upon Gordon the duty of formulating a plan to sever the Army of the Potomac and destroy its base of supplies, in order that the Confederate Army might have an opportunity to extricate itself from the embattled lines of Petersburg, and form a junction with the Confederate Gen. Jos. E. Johnston, in the State of North Carolina. Pursuant to the plans which were consummated and under the direction of Gen. Lee, Gordon made his famous attack upon the Union line at Fort Stedman in 1865, the result of which he so tersely sets forth in his Memoirs of the part he took in the Civil War. An invitation had been extended to Gen. Gordon to be present at the reunion at York, but he was unable to accept, and forwarded a letter, of which the following is a copy.

Atlanta, Georgia, March 20th, 1891.

Fellow Soldiers:—Engagements of the most exacting character will deprive me of the pleasure and privilege of accepting your very cordial invitation.

I beg, therefore, that you will accept this written assurance of my sincere appreciation of your generous wish as expressed through your secretary, that I should meet you on the anniversary of the attack upon Fort Stedman, in front of Petersburg, on the morning of March 25th, 1865.

I deeply regret that I can not meet in social intercourse the brave men who confronted my command on that momentous day.

The memory of that event and all similar occurrences of that historical period in our country's life should be cherished by the survivors of both armies and the mutual respect which was born of the supremest test to which American soldiers have

ever been subjected should be cultivated at the North and South, a most potent bond of union between the soldiers.

With hearty greeting and the expression of every good wish for the brave men assembled at York, that beautiful city through which it was my fortune to lead the first Confederate soldiers that ever trod its streets, I am

Faithfully yours,  
J. B. GORDON.

Among those who served on the division staff was Maj. W. H. Hodgkins, a most accomplished soldier, and a cultured gentleman, who served in the 36th Massachusetts, but his fondness for the soldiers of our Division was most pronounced. Being unable to attend the reunion of the Division at York, he wrote the secretary a letter, of which the following is a copy:

Boston, Mass., March 25th, 1891.

Comrade Milton A. Embick,

Secretary Society of Third Division, Ninth Army Corps:

Dear Comrade:—It is a source of deep regret that I am obliged, at the last moment, to telegraph you that it will be impossible for me to attend the reunion of the "Fort Stedman" division, which is to be held at York, Pa., to-day. Though absent in body I am with you in spirit. The recollection of the inspiring reunion at Harrisburg one year ago, when we met for the first time as a division to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the battle of Fort Stedman, is so fresh in memory that I can scarcely realize that a whole year has passed since I took my comrades by the hand, and looked into the faces of the gallant men who won for their division and its commander a reputation unsurpassed in the Army of the Potomac. And now you have again assembled on the anniversary of that eventful day, to commemorate the gallant achievements of the division. It would afford me great pleasure to be with you to greet Mrs. Hartranft and my former comrades, together with General Douglass, of Maryland, with whom I had an interview between the lines, under the flag of truce, on the morning of March 25, 1865.

The scenes of that eventful morning will never be effaced from memory; and you do well to celebrate the day. You will recall the memories of the days so long passed when you served in the army of the Union. You will also call to mind the noble commander of the division General John F. Hartranft, to whom you owe so much, and whose memory you revere.

During the past year I have thought much of him and of the seeming providence which placed him in command of the division. When your regiments went to the front, in the autumn of 1864, they were assigned to duty in the Army of the James, and occupied the lines in defense of Bermuda Hundred. Soon after it was decided to organize a corps of colored troops, and the original Fourth division of the Ninth corps—then the Third—was sent from the Army of the Potomac to the Army of the James, and the six new regiments of Pennsylvania troops were sent to the Ninth corps, in exchange for the colored troops. General Hartranft, himself a distinguished Pennsylvanian, was selected from the Ninth corps brigadiers to command the division. He was pre-eminently the man for the place. He was proud of his State and its soldiers, and his State justly proud of him. He had been in the service from the first call for troops in April, 1861. He had commanded regiments, brigades and divisions, and hard fighting in more than twenty battles from Bull Run to Petersburg, had inured him to all the demands of the service. He assumed command on the 15th day of December, 1864, which may be called the birthday of the division, and immediately addressed himself to prepare the division for the work it was to do. Drills, reviews, inspections, frequent schools for company and field officers, daily visits to the various departments of the camp, strict discipline—all these rendered the preliminary work severe; but the result was grand. The short but severe campaigns to Nottoway and Hatcher's Run during the winter months accustomed the men to hardship and privation, and also to implicit obedience. He tested his men, had confidence in them, and knew he could depend upon them in any emergency. In this he was never disappointed. You will remember him to-day as he rode into that fearful musketry fire at the head of the Two Hundredth regiment, and held it to its deadly work until it had broken the head of the charging column, and sent it reeling back towards Stedman. You will picture him as he rode an hour later on the right flank of the

Two Hundredth and Eleventh regiment, directing the assanlt which recaptured the fort and won the day. You will mourn at what seems to us all his untimely death, and will add another laurel to the chaplet of his fame.

With fraternal regards and best wishes,

I remain, yours very trnly,  
WM. H. HODGKINS.

Col. R. H. I. Goddard, of the distinguished Goddard family of Providence, R. I., served on the staff of Gen. Parke, when that officer was in command of the Ninth Army Corps, and was always a firm friend of our division; and although he belonged to the troops of another State, he never failed to pass his compliments upon the services of the Third Division of the Ninth Corps. Being unable to be present at the York reunion, Col. Goddard sent a letter, of which the following is a copy:

Providence, March 9, 1891.

Milton A. Emhick, Esq., Boiling Springs, Pa.

My Dear Comrade:—I regret extremely that I am unable to accept your cordial and graceful invitation to be present upon the observance of the twenty-sixth anniversary of Fort Stedman. A plan, long since matured to visit Bermuda with my family, alone prevents my attendance. Please state this to my old friends, and give them the assurance of my lasting affection and respect. How I would rejoice to be with you, and to see you all again. I trust that noble soldier, my old friend Hodgkins of the Thirty-six Mass., will be present, to tell you the story of Stedman, as he alone can tell it. What glorious memories rush into our minds, as we recall the 25th of March, 1865. Can I ever forget the Third division of the Ninth army corps, upon the early morning of that eventful day.

The mere mention of Fort Stedman is enough to "stir a fever in the blood of age, and to make the infant sinews strong as steel." At every reunion of ol'd soldiers, it is natural and proper that we should bestow gentle and loving thoughts upon our departed comrades. For they only have gone on a little while before us, and have joined the ever increasing throng across the river. As I write these lines to my old friends and comrades of the Third division of the Ninth army corps we loved so well, the faces and forms of many friends seem near to me, of those intimate and beloved companions during the stirring scenes of war. There are, however, two more closely associated in my thoughts as they wander back twenty-six years, with the events that transpired on the day you will celebrate at York. They were men of the quality and the fiber, I pray God may ever he found in this dear land of ours. Comhining unblemished honor and unquestioned courage, with the purest and loftiest patrioism, they served their country faithfully in the hour of her need. One of them you all know well. He was the lion-hearted Hartranft whose privilege it was yours to follow, and whose friendship during and after the war, I was prond to possess.

The other was unknown to most of you. Of delicate physical organization, he had a will of iron, which enabled him to complete four years of service in the field, but worn out with the hardships of continuous campaigns, he died within a few months after Appomattox, "ripe for immortality," but too early for his country and his friends. He was with us in that charge of Stedman, and his name was James Lyman Van Buren. General Parke knew him well, for he was his friend and trusted staff officer.

Twenty-six years have rolled by, and many events have faded from my mind, but I can never forget these two gallant soldiers and friends whose memories I now recall to you.

I am, my dear comrades,

Ever faithfully yours,

R. H. I. GODDARD.

Brevet Lt. Col. and A. D. C. Ninth Corps, Staff A. of P.

While all regretted that Gen. John B. Gordon was unable to meet with the survivors at the York reunion, they were delighted to have present Gen. Kyd Douglas, Adjutant General of the State of Maryland, who had rendered distinguished services on the Confederate side during the great conflict, having risen from the ranks to the command of the Light Brigade

of Gordon's Corps, and who, on the morning of the 25th of March, 1865, was placed in command by Gen. Gordon of the first and leading assaulting brigade. At the Camp Fire held in the evening in the Opera House, Gen. Douglas was introduced to the audience, and delivered an address of which the following is a copy:

GENERAL DOUGLAS: My old enemies (applause)—(a voice, "Oh, not now,")—and my fellow soldiers: I am not unprepared for this warm and cordial greeting, because I have met some of you before! (Laughter.) It was on the 25th of March, twenty-six years ago, and the place was called Fort Stedman. You were on one side and I went to make a friendly visit, and a warmer reception I never had in my life! (Laughter.) It is a long time ago, and the most of you were a deal better looking than you are now. (Laughter.) I was that much younger, but not a bit better looking—because I am not married yet! (Laughter.)

I have spoken of the warmth of your reception. Perhaps it was because of my early call. I had been assigned by General Gordon to the duty of leading the brigade that made the attack from Colquitt Salient upon Fort Stedman. We had a hard time to get there, and when we got there—perhaps owing to the untimely morning call—we met with nothing but very nasty treatment. (Laughter.) Guns and pistols were fired in a fellow's face, and a great many other things were done which did not reflect much credit upon the hospitality of the Third Division. (Laughter.) But I forgive you. In fact we had all better forgive each other, because when we come to call the roll and read over both the debit and credit sides, all of us will have some need of forgiveness.

I am here to-night to talk to you like a Confederate soldier. (A voice, "That is right.") I stood by my colors then, and do not "go back on" them now. (Applause.) If I am here to speak on behalf of the Third Division, and to pay a tribute to the memory of John F. Hartranft, it is because as a Union soldier he was the first man in the North after the war to take my hand. (Applause.) I have neither explanations nor apologies to make to any human being. I remember that General Grant never was known by voice or pen, as General of the Army, or as President, to say that anyone who sustained his colors and stood by his flag in the Confederate army should apologize to anyone for his course. This is what Grant and Hartranft and Parke, and the men who led your division felt. I respect their opinion and my own, and not those of those political generals, twenty-five years after the war (applause) who, when the flag of your country was being dragged in the dust and blood in the valley of Virginia, were content, like Job's warhorse, to "snuff the battle from afar." (Applause.)

Now, I am here, my friends, for two purposes; first to speak of my friend Hartranft, and then to tell you something of our side of Fort Stedman. There were two sides to that battle, or there would not have been any battle! (Laughter.) I want to call the attention of the members of

the Third Division to the fact that the battle of Fort Stedman has never had the prominence and importance in the history of this war which it deserves. I will tell you why. Within one week after that assault, General Lee evacuated Petersburg. Events rushed on with great rapidity to the surrender at Appomattox. The time for reports of the generals, for historical use, was not at hand. There is no report of the battle on the part of the Union side that is worth reading. The reports on the part of the Confederate side are even more inferior. The battle of Fort Stedman lost its prominence by reason of the overwhelming events which followed close upon it; and it is for that reason that you, yourselves have not understood the important part you played in terminating the war. (Applause.)

Now, what was the motive of that battle? What was the cause of it? General Lee knew for months before that assault that the days of the Confederate army in front of Petersburg were few. He had reported to the Confederate government that it would be impossible for him, when the season opened, to hold the lines against Grant's army. His supplies were gone; his ranks were as thin as the clothes of his soldiers. Desertion had thinned many of them out. Death had thinned others. That Army of Northern Virginia, which for four years had, as Swinton has said, carried the rebellion on the points of its bayonets, had almost ceased to exist as an organized body. General Lee knew that the army could never resist the organized force of the Army of the Potomac under Grant. He had so informed President Davis, and gone so far as to suggest the evacuation of Petersburg. But it had been suggested to him that he must make one more attempt; and I say here with calm deliberation that a man more willing to do that never was known than Robert E. Lee. So, finally, to convince the President, and to convince himself of the futility of holding these lines, he had a consultation, and upon that consultation determined where the only point at which the attack could be made. I am sorry that I have not a black board here, that I might explain the position of the lines as understood by some of us who have studied them. But, if you remember, on your extreme right, or our extreme left, the Appomattox ran along in front of Fort Stedman, or rather in front of Colquitt Salient; and behind Fort Stedman was a military road which ran to Mead's Station, the point to which your supplies came. Down on your left, or our right, your left had been swung around until near the Appomattox post. Five Forks, and up to Hatcher's Run. The point upon which General Lee desired to move was Danville. The left of General Grant's army was across the road to Danville.

There were two purposes then—first, to make an assault upon General Grant's right; so that if we succeeded in breaking the right and getting across to the military road, so as to threaten Meade's Station, the base of supplies for the whole army, General Grant would be compelled to swing his left around and to bring it up. More than that, it was believed that if we could succeed in forcing our way in like a wedge through Fort Stedman, back to Meade's Station, and across the military road, we might in that way produce such a commotion in the right wing as to give us what

would be equivalent to a victory; and having obtained that victory, General Lee could, if he saw proper, retire, as General Parke well knows, with much greater ease. The two purposes then were, first, to make an assault in force upon the Federal army to let them know that the Army of Northern Virginia still lived, and to take advantage of that assault, if it should be successful; and if not, to compel General Grant to throw his left back from Appomattox, from Five Forks, back from Hatcher's Run, and to bring it around to his right, so that General Lee, by extending his right, could open the way, and instead of crossing the Appomattox River (as we had to do in the end), and pass around by way of Burkville, he could march down on the southern side of the Appomattox to Danville, and join our lines with those of General Johnson.

That was the military position; and I say, when you consider this fact, if that movement had succeeded in either way, if the Third Division had not behaved as they did, if they had not been in that extremely inhospitable and stubborn mood which characterized them (I do not want to speak too ill of it in your presence, because people like to have their own opinion),—if they had not behaved as they did, and we had succeeded, we might have produced a confusion in the Federal Army, which would have delayed Appomattox; and even if we had not been driven back, would have caused General Grant to swing back his left, giving us a road to Danville to join General Johnson, and the surrender would not have taken place by the ninth of April, as it did.

That assault then was made on the morning of the twenty-fifth of March. I remember it well. As my brother, Embick, in introducing me has said, I am no novice. I am a full-fledged, gray-haired old Reb. (Laughter and applause.) I went into the army as a private in the "Stonewall Brigade" formerly commanded by General Hill and General Early. I had been very kindly selected by my leader, General Gordon, whose chief of staff I had been before that, and placed in command of the brigade that morning; so that it became my fortune to be with the front of that assault upon Fort Stedman. We got through the lines. We have heard a good deal about Fort Haskell. We have had a few accounts, in the first one of which I saw nothing about the Third Division, and I would have thought we had been whipped by Fort Haskell only. They were gallant men who held that fort, but we did not care much about any fort on one side or the other, when we got behind them once and had gone on with our forces. We did not care anything about forts except for the purpose of using guns. (Laughter.) We wanted to get through; and one cause of the failure was that Gordon, who had been assigned to the command of the attacking column, was to have been reinforced by Longstreet, and should have had ten or twelve thousand men in that column of assault; but owing to several accidents, one by railway and one by failure to connect, the reinforcements did not get there. The main assault was made by Gordon's own division and those immediately around it, and the reinforcements to be sent by Longstreet never came. If they had arrived in time, you Third Division fellows would have had a little harder work than you did. (Laughter.)

Just beyond Fort Stedman the advance of our lines met the Third Division—the Two Hundredth, the Two Hundred and Ninth, the Two Hundred and Eighth, the Two Hundred and Eleventh, the Two Hundred and Fifth, the Two Hundred and Seventh, and I believe the One Hundredth Pennsylvania was somewhere there. You see I know all about you; I have had it ground into me as a matter of history. We met them. Hartranft was there and he did not behave towards me as he did afterwards. (Laughter.) Then came the assault against us which drove us back. I got back safely on the other side, but how I got back I have never been able to find out, however, I did get back. The lines were closed up, the battle of Stedman had been fought, and the assault of our army had been repulsed. The last great attack of the Army of Northern Virginia had ended in disaster, and before the sun went down we knew that the fate of that army was sealed. It was the last and supreme effort, boldly conceived, well executed at first, not sustained, driven back, and defeated. From that on to the final end the Army of the Potomac had nothing but one triumphal procession. It was the last fight of the war, so far as any hope of success was concerned. It was the final effort, and that effort had failed. The retreat from Petersburg and the evacuation of our works followed as a matter of course.

It was on that field that I first met General Hartranft. When the lines had been restored, to me was assigned the duty, by General Gordon, of opening communication with the enemy by flag of truce, and entering into an agreement to get the dead and wounded that lay between our lines. In answer to that flag, an officer appeared, and following him came a gentleman, then unknown to me, since well known as General Hartranft. A slight conversation disclosed that we had been at the same college for a while. We talked very little of the war. He turned to me and said, "Douglas, take your dead and wounded and give us ours, that is all the cartel we need on an occasion like this." No red tape there! (Laughter.)

I saw in a newspaper a ghastly receipt which, strange to say, although it was a newspaper, I recognized as my own handwriting. General Hartranft had had it photographed, and the photograph had been engraved and printed in the Philadelphia Press. I could have sworn to it as my own receipt, and a ghastly one it was—for the dead and wounded that I received on that fatal field. They were carried back and had a soldier's burial. Shortly after that the army took its flight from Petersburg, and Appomattox followed in less than a week or ten days. That was not the last time I met Gen. Hartranft. When he was in charge as provost-marshal-general and military governor of the District of Columbia, and presided over the court which tried the assassins of President Lincoln, and those who were charged with complicity, some fellow who had not the fear of God before his eyes, went there and testified that I had something to do with that assassination. (Laughter.) I was taken down, and put in the hands of a provost-marshal at Washington, who asked me, "What do you want to do?" Said I, "I want to be sent to the penitentiary." He re-

plied, "This is the first time I ever heard anybody ask to be sent to the penitentiary; why do you want to go there?" Said I, "I want to go there because General Hartranft is in command, and I will always trust myself in the hands of a soldier whom I have fought." (Applause.) I was sent there, and I was received by Gen. Hartranft as if I had been his intimate friend. He introduced me to his personal staff. They were courteous, and I lived among them, although a prisoner in fact, as one of their body. I was supposed to be shut up in a cell, but Gen. Hartranft knew that I had no more to do with the assassination of President Lincoln than he had. The fact was that when President Lincoln was killed I was for three weeks in the mountains of Virginia, and never heard of his death until two weeks after it occurred.

I desire to say here now, that I cherish the memory of General Hartranft's behavior on that occasion, the memory of his generosity, his tenderness and manhood, not only towards me, but towards Mrs. Surratt. I have seen pictures in your own loyal North representing him as standing by when that woman was manacled; and in the State of Pennsylvania, I dare, as a Confederate soldier, to deny the charge made against him. (Applause.) He treated her with courtesy, with manliness and humanity. His whole course on that occasion and as provost-marshal-general was marked by the same humanity.

We are becoming gradually fewer and fewer. The heads of the army have gone. Grant is gone; McClellan is gone; Sherman has gone; Sheridan has gone; Hancock is gone. Others have followed in their tread. On our side, Lee has gone; Stonewall Jackson is no more; Johnston has gone. Our ranks are becoming thinner and thinner. Very few remain on either side. Since the notice of this reunion was given, the greatest of your living generals, Sherman, was followed to the place of the dead, and the magnificent Joe Johnston stood by and dropped flowers upon his tomb. Scarcely had the clods been closed over the grave of Sherman, when Johnston himself, eighty-four years of age, answered the last roll-call, and he who was a few weeks ago the greatest living soldier of the Confederacy is now no more. One and another and another must answer to the tattoo and taps as their lights go out forever. Our time is coming, my fellow soldiers. It is well that we should get closer together. Let our bickerings be cast aside. Let us stand to our convictions; stand up to what we thought our views of right, but let all paltry bickerings cease. You gray-haired men, and you young men who are the sons of gray-haired veterans, those of us who have seen war can afford to forget what took place twenty-five years ago. We can soften our animosities and remember that from time immemorial the bravest have been the tenderest. We can stand by each other; we can stand by the same principles; we can stand by the same Union, and by the same flag. There are not many of us left to answer the roll call, and we are becoming fewer and fewer south of the Potomac and North. Death knows no distinction between the blue and the gray; and you and I, sir, (turning to General Parks,) can march together side by side and pluck

roses from the same bush and drop them together on the graves of Hartranft and Johnston. (Applause.) So it will be until the time comes in the history of this world's affairs, in the history of this nation when joined together and praising as it may be the heroic deeds and records of the Union soldiers and the Confederate volunteer, we will stand side by side before all the world as the same people, with the same record, the same hopes, the same aspirations—all the children, the brothers and fathers of the American soldier! (Great applause.)

Among other distinguished officers of the army at the York reunion was Gen. B. F. Fisher, Chief Signal Officer of the Army of the Potomac. While Gen. Fisher was not particularly attached to the Ninth Army Corps, the position of the Ninth Corps along the beleagured lines of Petersburg, brought him in contact with the officers and men of the Ninth Corps. Gen. Fisher had therefore a good opportunity to observe the character of the soldiers of the Third Division, and his presence at the reunion was the source of much gratification.

All along the embattled lines outlooks were constructed, sometimes in the tops of tall trees with thick foliage, and sometimes derricks were built, and from these outlooks observations were constantly taken of the movements of troops within the Confederate lines, and information as to such movements was communicated to the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac at City Point. It was a most important duty that thus devolved upon Gen. Fisher and his subordinates.

Gen. Fisher was introduced to the audience at the Camp Fire in the evening, and gave an entertaining account of his confinement in a Confederate prison, and his story of the manner in which he and Col. Straight and other officers were enabled to build a tunnel through which they escaped to regain their freedom within the Union lines was particularly interesting. During the address of Gen. Fisher, following that of Col. Douglas, he paid a tribute to the valor of the Confederate soldier in the following words:

GENERAL FISHER: Comrades, and ladies and gentlemen, I did not come here to be heard; I came to listen. I knew nothing of this reunion until my friend, Colonel Stewart, about noon to-day informed me of the reunion of Hartranft's old Division at York, and requested me to accompany him to the place. Your chairman has seen proper to ask me to give you an account of what he called my "retreat" from old Libby Prison, through the tunnel in 1864. Before I do that, I want to pay my respects to our enemies from 1861 down to the close of the war, by referring to one incident. No soldier can lose his own self-respect; no citizen of the United States can do his country a wrong, or commit an error from which posterity may draw an improper lesson by speaking of the honor, the courage, the bravery of the foe, which enabled the soldiers of the Republic to win the renown that they have won. One of the most remarkable scenes in my judgment that the world ever saw as reflecting endurance, the devotion, and the courage and the bravery of men, was that displayed by the Con-

federate army, as it stood waiting the shock of arms which they expected just prior to the announcement of the surrender. Picture, if it is possible, you who were not present and never saw the scene! There stood the decimated regiments, to which reference has already been made by General Douglas—ragged, hungry, many of them with empty knapsacks, and some without muskets or cartridges, but grim, determined-visaged, awaiting whatever might be the end. Surrounding them upon every hill-top stood the soldiers of our thoroughly equipped army with all the paraphernalia of war that wealth and abundance was able to gather in defense of the Republic, ready to open up what would have been simply an avalanche of iron and lead, if the command had been given for another battle. Before all that array of arms, with all that array of soldiery, out-numbering them from three or four to one, flushed with the victories which they had been reaping for days and days, eager and earnest to end the fray, there they stood. Well did they know that if the order had been given to advance, it meant simply annihilation to them; but they never faltered, they never flinched; there they stood as they had often stood before, to meet the shock of the Army of the Potomac. I say to-day, that such an exhibition of courage, of endurance, of faith to a cause then lost, of faith to a principle which they themselves long had doubted, of faith in their commanders, and with a determination to accept whatever might be the result. Wrong as you and I always felt they were, yet ill would it become you or me to question the honesty of the rank and file of that army. No men who did not honestly believe that they were right under the circumstances could possibly have presented the front which they presented. This little tribute I have felt it a proper thing to pay in the presence of one whom I knew thirty-three years ago, from which time until to-night I have never seen. I have often heard of the position which he held in the army upon the other side and I knew he was actuated by the utmost confidence in the righteousness of the cause for which he battled, that he never shirked a duty, never turned his back, although it was impossible for the combined strength of the army with which he was acting to overcome what was in their front. (Applause.)

Among other speeches delivered at the Camp Fire at York, was one by the Hon. Thos. J. Stewart, Secretary of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania. Gen. Stewart was most fortunate in the selection of his topic, and most happy and entertaining in his delivery. He was well-known in soldier circles throughout the Commonwealth, and needed no introduction anywhere. Admired for his eloquence and splendid appearance, any organization was fortunate in having him present to address them on any occasion. The speech of Gen. Stewart at the Camp Fire was received most joyfully by the survivors, and most heartily applauded.

Gen. John G. Parke, the last commander of the Ninth Corps, was also present at the York reunion, and was received most cordially by the survivors of the division, and by the people of York in general. At the Camp Fire he spoke as follows:

GENERAL PARKE: "Comrades, ladies and gentlemen, I wish at the outset simply to thank you heartily for this most generous reception. Were I an orator I do not think it would be possible to say a word after the eloquent and well deserved tribute given by our friend, Mr. Brown, to our departed companion and commander, General Hartranft, and to his able and efficient division. But, I have one or two thoughts which I am sure you will pardon me for attempting in my feeble way to express.

"What brings us here twenty-six years after the action which we celebrate? Why do you come, and why do I come? It is comradeship, and that comradeship which is based upon a tie of the strongest nature—a tie to be fully appreciated only by those who have been under fire on duty. That is an experience we enjoy without being fully aware of it when we come together, which makes these meetings, where we see each other face to face and shake each other by the hand, occasions for the recalling of memories of duty performed, which is to us a heartfelt satisfaction.

"Now what is at the bottom of this thing? It is not curiosity; it is not a desire to parade ourselves for what we have done; but it is a feeling, and I know you will agree with me, whose foundation is patriotism and love of the flag. That is the feeling which it is our duty to disseminate and cultivate among the young men who are coming forward to take our places. (Applause.)

"In coming together we have a little pride, we feel satisfied with our work. But we had our worries and troubles and disappointments.

"Things did not always go as we thought they ought to go, or as we thought they would probably go if we had been in control. Still we were buoyed up by an assurance of ultimate success; and changes of scene brought about and added to this feeling of contentment and certainty as to the outcome of the war.

"But there are two other classes of our people that I think we sometimes forget in these reunions who probably suffered more than we did, whose trials were probably greater than ours. They are the mothers, the sisters, and the wives of those who were at the front. (Applause.) Their anxieties we were not able to and cannot fully appreciate. The other class was the statesmen, the governors, the legislators, the business men, who had continually in mind the preparation and procurement of the wherewithal to carry on the war. We never knew the anxiety, worry and trouble of those men, and I think when we come together in this way we should give a thought to those, who although at home, furnished us with the means of subsistence and transportation, and gave us loyal and hearty support. We should remember especially that to instruct the rising generation to respect that flag and to maintain this great government, is a duty which we owe to our country. I thank you most heartily." (Applause.)

Col. Fredericks of the 209th Regiment, president of the Division Association was unable to be present, and Gen. Levi A. Dodd, formerly colonel of the 211th Regiment was selected to preside in his place, and

introduce to the audience those who were selected to address the survivors and their friends. Gen. Dodd was greatly admired by all his associates in the division, and his affection for his companions and officers is fully exhibited in the address given at that time.

GEN. DODD: "Comrades: It is hard to realize that a whole year has gone by since last we met to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the battle of Fort Stedman; the battle which every comrade here to-night helped to win, and the battle which shines forth as one of the bright stars in the firmament of our glorious achievements. But, nevertheless, a year has rolled around. Old Father Time is merciless, and to-night finds us another year older; another year of peace has been recorded since that terrible civil war, the like of which God grant we may never see again.

"The history of our division is a glorious one, and many are the glorious deeds it has done in its time, but I am sure every one of you will agree with me when I say, that one of the last best things it did, was the establishment of our annual reunions and camp fires; the second of which we are celebrating to-night in a most substantial manner.

"I have been looking forward to this occasion with the keenest anticipation, and now that it has arrived, once more I extend to you a fraternal welcome, from the very bottom of my heart.

"I am sure that I should fail, should I attempt to express the happiness it affords me to be here to-night, and to look once more upon your old familiar faces. Old friends, are, after all the best friends, and the friends most appreciated, are those who have been with a man "for better or for worse," who have stood shoulder to shoulder in the din of battle, when whistling minnie-balls and bursting bombs filled the air, and when, in the intervals of quiet, our hearts were rent by the groans of the injured, and the prayers of the dying.

"Comrades, in the most trying moments of our lives we have been together. The direst days we have seen have found us side by side. How bravely you have fought, and what privations you suffered for the cause which every man of you believed to be right, and for the dear old flag we love, is not for me to say. History has chiseled these events upon her unperishable tablets, and long after your hearts have ceased to beat within your bosoms, and long after your lips are sealed, posterity will read of your glorious victories at Fort Stedman and Petersburg, and honor you, to whose valor and heroism those victories were due.

"Some who were with us those days are not here to-night. Long, long ago, taps have been sounded, and they have answered to their last roll-call. Among those is your noble commander. How much of the victory we gained in those trying days is due to him none of us can ever realize, but although many days have passed since he joined the great silent majority, deep down in our hearts we cherish his memory, and rejoice that he is now receiving his just reward.

"Idle words can not add to your love for General Hartranft, and it is

not for me to attempt to praise his deeds. The history of his life silently preaches his eulogy. He was as honest a man, as noble a gentleman, as brave a soldier as ever breathed, and my fervent prayer is that upon that final day of reckoning each of us may be accorded a reception such as I fervently believe he received.

"But we must not take all the credit for the triumph of the Stars and Stripes twenty-six years ago upon ourselves. Nor must we forget our friends, the enemy. You had a hard fight to fight, and you fought it well, but had you not been compelled to fight as hard as you did, the honor of victory would not have been half so great. The boys who wore the grey deserve the credit of bringing out all the valor that was in you.

"Like us, they were American citizens, and fighting for what they believed to be right, and for an institution which they held sacred. No war in history was as terrible as that one. No war could have been. Men whose ancestors had fought in the revolution side by side against the tyranny of Great Britain were now pitted against each other. The result was that a war which many believed would be ended in a year, lasted four, and though defeated, the men who represented the Confederacy may well be proud of the heroism they displayed. Truly no army but one composed of Americans could have done as well.

"But time goes on apace, and the flow of years has washed out the memory of those awful days. To-day the old flag you loved and bled for floats over a re-united country. A country which holds up its head proudly among all other nations of the world, and which has become more closely welded together by the very ordeal to which it was subjected.

"In the daily walks of life we meet the men who were then our enemies, who are now our friends. We do business with them, and occasionally we talk over the "late unpleasantness." All differences are forgotten, and our only interest is the prosperity and welfare of America, our common heritage; and to protect the honor of the starry banner which floats so proudly over us.

"Our hands are clasped over the bloody chasm, and God grant that each of our annual camp-fires will find a more complete re-union of the North and South, the blue and the grey, the palmetto and the pine." (Applause.)

The executive committee of the Division in arranging the program for the second annual re-union had selected Major Isaac B. Brown to deliver an historical address. This address dwelt to some extent on the assembling of the regiments at the time of their muster into the service, and their first appearance on the embattled lines at Bermuda Hundred. Their first experience on the picket lines was when they heard the music of the religious songs at the prayer meetings of the Confederates. The address also referred to the mid-night charge at Bermuda Hundred; the transferring of the regiments to the Army of the Potomac and the formation of the Third Division under the command of Hartranft; to the Weldon Raid; the Hatcher's Run campaign; the gallantry of the division at Stedman, and the memorable assault at Petersburg in front of Fort "Hell." A

word picture showed the commanding form of Hartranft on the parapets at Fort Sedgwick as he followed the movements of his division on that memorable morning of April 2nd, 1865.

All in all, the second reunion of the division at York was a most successful and most enjoyable one, and yet with all it is a sad commentary to make that nearly all of the most prominent soldiers in that reunion have answered their last roll call, and when it is remembered that that reunion was held twenty-six years after the war, and that another quarter of a century is rapidly passing away, it is not surprising that death has mown so wide a swath in the ranks of the Survivors of the Division.

Gen. Robert C. Cox, of Wellsboro, Tioga Co., who led the assaulting brigade upon the embattlements of Fort Mahone, and who was much beloved by his soldiers as well as by the people where he lived, was elected president.

Hon. Milton A. Embick was re-elected secretary, and Williamsport was chosen for the next reunion, to take place on the 24th and 25th of March, 1893.

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### THE THIRD DIVISION REUNION.

WILLIAMSPORT was selected for the assembling of the Survivors because of its central location, and this fact contributed largely to the great number of survivors who paraded the streets of Williamsport on the 24th of March, 1893, on which date the regimental reunions were held. On the following day the division reunion was held in the court house and at the Park Hotel, presided over by Gen. Robert C. Cox. An address of welcome was given by Mayor F. H. Keller, and was responded to by D. L. Dean, of the 207th Regiment. Comrade Dean was most eloquent in his response, and the fact that he had left one of his arms on the field at the siege of Petersburg perhaps accentuated the expressions which he made with reference to the services of the division.

Letters of regret were read from Gen. Parke, Gen. McM. Gregg, Governor Pattison, Col. Goddard and Gen. Jas. W. Latta. In the evening of the last day of the reunion, a most glorious camp fire was held in the Opera House, and addresses delivered by Generals Hastings, Stewart and Louis Wagner, and Maj. G. W. Merrick. As at Harrisburg and York, the entire Hartranft family was present, and cordially greeted the Survivors of the Division.

A pleasing incident of this reunion was the presentation of a beautiful silken flag to Comrade D. B. Meredith of the 207th Regiment, who had labored earnestly for the success of the reunion, and especially in securing a large attendance from his own regiment.

Hon. M. A. Embick was again chosen secretary, and Major Isaac B.

Brown was elected president of the Division Association, which position he has since held, having been re-elected at each of the succeeding reunions.

By resolution passed, it was decided to hold the next reunion in the city of Harrisburg, April 9th, 1895.

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#### FOURTH REUNION.

**W**HEN the time came for holding the Fourth Reunion of the Division at Harrisburg, great preparations were made by the citizens generally. They showed a marked recognition of the merits of the organization, whose survivors were to assemble at Harrisburg, by the decoration of all the State Capitol Buildings under the direction of the Commissioner of Buildings and Grounds. This reunion at Harrisburg was held before a portion of the old State Capitol had been destroyed by fire, and the beautiful Colonial architecture of the Capitol was most pleasingly decorated. Not only was the Capitol decorated, but the Senate chamber and House of Representatives, the committee rooms and the rooms of the different departments of the State government were thrown open to the soldiers, in which they held their regimental reunions. Gen. Daniel H. Hastings was then Governor, and greeted the soldiers most cordially, and delivered a very eloquent address at the Camp Fire which was held in the House of Representatives in the evening of the day of the reunion. The Indian School Band, from Carlisle, and the Steelton Band, furnished magnificent music for the occasion. D. B. Meredith of the 207th was elected Division Secretary.

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#### THE HARTRANFT EQUESTRIAN STATUE.

**S**OME years before the Survivors assembled in their Fourth Reunion at Harrisburg, the State Legislature had made provision for the erection of an equestrian statue of Gen. John Fulton Reynolds, who was killed at Gettysburg, of Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, wounded at Gettysburg, and Gen. George Gordon Meade, who commanded the Army of the Potomac at the Battle of Gettysburg. An appropriation of \$100,000 had been made for this purpose, and a commission appointed under the authority of an act of the Legislature, which commission was charged with the duty of procuring and erecting these equestrian statues at Gettysburg. All of these three soldiers were Pennsylvanians, and few soldiers during the Civil War achieved greater eminence as soldiers than did these three distinguished Pennsylvanians.

The Survivors of the Third Division, always desirous of commemorating the services of their division commander, Gen. Hartranft, conceived

the idea of having an equestrian statue erected on the Capitol grounds at Harrisburg, in recognition of the distinguished services of their old commander. In conformity with this wish, a resolution was passed at the Fourth Reunion at Harrisburg in the nature of a memorial to the Legislature praying for the appropriation of \$18,000 for the erection of a similar equestrian statue to Gen. Hartranft. A committee was also appointed to prepare a bill to be introduced into the Legislature then in session. The committee discharged this duty promptly, and a bill was presented in the House of Representatives and referred to the appropriation committee. The committee also had a hearing before the appropriation committee, and received no little encouragement as to the favorable action of the appropriation committee. However, the bill was not reported from the committee, which caused those who had brought about its introduction no little concern. Frequent interviews were had with the chairman of the appropriation committee, but no definite promise could be secured. The chairman of the committee representing the Survivors' Association knowing of the friendship which existed between Gen. Hartranft and the then senior United States Senator, Col. M. S. Quay, put himself in communication by telephone with Senator Quay, who was then at his home at Beaver, Pa., and made an earnest appeal asking that he use his influence with the chairman of the appropriation committee to secure favorable action upon this appropriation bill. Senator Quay, whatever may be said of him, had a kind heart; was true to his friends, and was always friendly to the Union soldier. His response was prompt and favorable, and he gave instructions to have the chairman of the appropriation committee put in communication with him by telephone. Just what was said by Senator Quay to the chairman of the appropriation committee is only conjecture, but the next day the appropriation bill for the statue was reported favorably and received practically the unanimous vote of both houses of the Legislature, and was promptly approved by Gov. Hastings. This bill is found in the Pamphlet Laws of Pennsylvania for the session of 1895, page 623, and is as follows:

Under the terms of this act, the Governor, Daniel H. Hastings, the Auditor General, A. H. Mylin, and the State Treasurer, Samuel M. Jackson, together with a representative of Hartranft's old regiment, the 51st Pennsylvania Volunteers, and one from each regiment of the Third Division were to constitute a commission charged with the duty of procuring a design and having erected this equestrian statue. The representatives from the different regiments who were nominated by the respective presidents of each regimental organization, were submitted to the Governor, who was to approve such nominations, and to issue commissions under the law above cited. In conformity with the authority so given, W. C. Hensel was commissioned to represent the 51st Pennsylvania Volunteers; Geo. W. Aughenbaugh, the 200th Pennsylvania Volunteers; Henry Elway, the 205th Pennsylvania Volunteers; J. W. Fredericks, the 207th Pennsylvania Volunteers; Dr. J. E. Van Camp, the 208th

Pennsylvania Volunteers; M. A. Embick, the 209th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and Isaac B. Brown, the 211th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Immediately after the appointing and commissioning of the representatives so chosen, a meeting was held in the executive department at Harrisburg, at which Gov. Hastings was elected chairman, D. B. Meredith, secretary, and Isaac B. Brown, chairman of the executive committee.

The executive committee was authorized to prepare a circular for publication in which sculptors were invited to submit designs for this equestrian statue. This circular was published in New York and Philadelphia papers, and in due time the executive committee was in correspondence with a number of sculptors, nearly all of whom objected to designing and constructing an equestrian statue for the amount appropriated, inasmuch as no equestrian statue in the United States had been designed, constructed and erected on a suitable pedestal for that amount of money. The chairman of the executive committee, however, impressed upon them the fact that if the statue was furnished, it must be within the limits of the appropriation.

At a time fixed for the presentation of the designs, something like a dozen sculptors appeared before the commission, and exhibited their designs, some exhibiting sketches, and others models. No limitation had been placed upon the sculptors as to how Hartranft was to be represented in bronze, whether on parade, in action, in camp, or in the field, this being left entirely to the conception of the sculptor. At the time of the inspection of the designs presented, the members of the Hartranft family were present, and after much deliberation and the most conservative consideration, the design submitted by Mr. F. W. Ruckstuhl of New York, was accepted. Subsequently in accordance with instructions given, a contract was entered into by which the sculptor agreed to make a one-half life sized model and submit it to the commission for approval; then to furnish a full heroic sized model, to be one and one-half larger than the usual horse and man, for the criticism and approval of the commission.

While Mr. Ruckstuhl had been for years a student of sculpture, and had spent a number of years studying in Paris and was most proficient in all the work he had attempted, yet he had never designed and constructed an equestrian statue, but he was most enthusiastic and energetic, and the commission was most favorably impressed by him on this account. After preparing in this country the one-half sized model and receiving the approval of the commission, he went to Paris, and there under the instruction of his old master, devoted about one and one-half years to preparing the heroic sized model, which was transported to New York, where the commission inspected it. Some slight changes were suggested in this plaster model, but in general it met with the approval of the commission. It may be well to observe that the sculptor and builder of an equestrian statue must have some controlling fixed idea, and that every feature of man and horse must coincide with and support that idea. In the de-

sign accepted the sculptor sought to represent Hartranft coming home at the head of his victorious troops at the close of the war, riding through the streets of the city and receiving the plaudits of the people. This was the controlling idea, and every position of the man and every muscle of the horse must fit this idea. The man of course, the prominent and attractive feature, but as Mr. Ruckstuhl declared, he constructed the horse in such a way as to make the horse appear to say, "This is the old man's day, but I am in it, too."

In the meantime the Survivors of the Division had arranged for another reunion at Harrisburg, in 1897, at which time they hoped to have favorable action taken by the Legislature, and to then have the unveiling ceremonies of the equestrian statue. It takes time, however, to design, prepare and erect an equestrian statue, and the meeting for 1897 was postponed until the statue should be ready for unveiling. In due time the plaster cast of the heroic model was cast in bronze and exhibited to the commission in New York. The foundation in front of the main Capitol building was laid, the granite base placed in position, and the superstructure of polished Tennessee marble was ready for the placing of the bronze equestrian statue.

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#### FIFTH REUNION.

AMOST glorious day for the people of Harrisburg was the 12th of May, 1899, the date fixed for the unveiling of the equestrian statue to Maj. Gen. Hartranft. Many regiments of the National Guard of Pennsylvania were present, and a large detachment of U. S. Volunteers from Camp Meade, who had just returned from the Cuban campaign of the Spanish War was also present to participate in the unveiling ceremonies. In addition, the Grand Army of the Republic, the survivors of Hartranft's old regiment, and the survivors of the different regiments of the Third Division, were present and joined in the parade and paid their tribute of respect to their gallant old leader. Civic organizations of all kinds and descriptions were present, and also participated in the ceremonies, and from early morning until late at night the streets resounded with the strains of martial music, and to the marching of thousands of State and National soldiers. The evening before a camp fire of the Third Division was held in the House of Representatives, and was largely attended both by the survivors of the division, and by eminent officers who had served during the Civil War. In many respects it was the happiest and most satisfactory reunion ever held. At this camp fire, in recognition of the services rendered the division especially in connection with the legislative work, on the equestrian statue commission, the chairman of the executive committee of that commission was presented with a beautiful silver set suitably inscribed, the presentation speech being made by Gen. Levi A. Dodd, the commander of the regiment in which the chairman of the executive committee, Maj. I. B. Brown served in the

Civil War. At this meeting the action of the commission in selecting Miss Mary Lenore Embick to unveil the monument was approved, and by resolution duly passed, Miss Embick was selected as the daughter of the division.

There was something very fitting in the selection of May 12th as the time for unveiling of the equestrian statue, for it was the anniversary of the promotion of General Hartranft to the rank of Brigadier General in the great Wilderness campaign of May, 1864. Up to this time Hartranft had acted as Colonel of Volunteers, most of the time commanding a brigade, and in one successful battle commanding a division as Colonel of Volunteers. On this occasion men of distinction in the councils of the nation brought their garlands and placed them reverently at the base of the great bronze equestrian statue of the illustrious Pennsylvania soldier.

The executive committee had invited Mr. McKinley, then President of the United State to be present on this occasion, but owing to official engagements he was unable to be present, but sent his Secretary of War, Russel A. Alger; his Post Master General, Charles Emory Smith, and his Adjutant General, General Corbin. General Miles, then in command of the army was invited, and had agreed to be present, but on account of the feud existing between himself and Secretary of War, Alger, he refused to join the party. Governor Stone presided at the unveiling ceremonies, and there was presented to him a picture of Capitol Hill in splendor and beauty never before equalled.

On the platform, among hundreds of others, were Gov. Stone and wife, Secretary Alger, Adjutant General Corbin, Post Master General Smith, Col. Merrick, Mrs. John Frederick Hartranft, Mr. Linn Hartranft, Mrs. Samuel Hartranft, the Misses Hartranft and Mrs. James W. Latta, and Miss Latta, also Mrs. Milton A. Embick, and Mrs. Isaac B. Brown.

The ceremonies were most impressive, and it is scarcely possible to conceive of a more enchanting scene than was witnessed in the unveiling of this monument to an heroic soldier. The opening selection by the band was "Memories of the War," and was rendered by the Indian School Band. Then Gov. Stone introduced the ex-chaplain of the 205th Regiment, Rev. William A. Houck, of Mt. Carmel, who delivered a patriotic and eloquent prayer, after which the Steelton Band rendered "Nearer My God to Thee," at the conclusion of which Gen. Levi A. Dodd conducted Miss Mary Lenore Embick to the pedestal of the statue. At a signal from Gov. Stone, Miss Embick pulled the cord, and the swathing flags fell away from the monument, and amid the prolonged applause from the thousands who witnessed the sight, the bronze man and horse were disclosed to view. Just as the flags fell, the artillery posted upon the banks of the Susquehanna fired the first gun of the Major General's salute of seventeen guns, and the Steelton Band played our inspiring hymn, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Then Gov. Stone introduced the orator of the day, Major Isaac B. Brown, who delivered the following address:

ADDRESS OF MAJOR ISAAC BROWNELL BROWN AT THE UN-  
VEILING OF THE HARTRANFT EQUESTRIAN STATUE, AT  
HARRISBURG, MAY 12, 1899.

OF ARMS and the hero I sing, who, compelled by fate, first came from Troy to Italy and the Lavinian coast. Much was he tossed about both on land and sea by the force of the supreme and the lasting wrath of the cruel Juno; much also did he suffer from war while he was building the city and leading the gods to Latium." Thus does the immortal Virgil first introduce his hero in his masterpiece, the *Aeneid*.

"To-day the story may be briefly unfolded of a man and a hero—that distinguished son of Pennsylvania, John Frederick Hartranft, represented in that equestrian statue, who, under the insignia of the cross cannon and anchor, following the fortunes of the old Ninth Corps, was tossed about both on land and on sea like Virgil's *Aeneas*, and suffered likewise from the havoc of war in the greatest conflict of arms that was ever withstood by a civilized nation.

"Our hero heard the first clash of arms in the south, and in the beauty and splendor of his young manhood brought to this Capitol city the Fourth Pennsylvania Infantry, and as rapidly as persistent effort could accomplish it, deployed its lines in the presence of the enemy at Fairfax, Virginia

"When the two armies were confronting each other on the Plains of Manassas on that fatal day of July, when the hopes of the nation were concentrated in the hastily organized army, not an organization from the Keystone State participated in the battle or suffered in the humiliation of defeat. Our hero was there, however, and magnificently represented this State as a volunteer aide on the staff of General Franklin. The term of his three months' regiment had scarcely expired before Hartranft was again moving to the field of action with another body of Pennsylvanians whose heroic deeds were to make resplendent and whose blood was to consecrate so many fields of battle. This organization became the gallant, the bullet riddled, the war scarred 51st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry that remained at the front until the days of Appomattox.

"At the head of this regiment he joined the coast expedition under Burnside, that command which had scarcely embarked on transports before the great waves of the Atlantic scattered the ships to the four winds of the earth. The Roman Legions under Julius Caesar, driven by storms against the white cliffs of Albion in their expedition against the ancient Britons, could scarcely have encountered more tempestuous seas than did Hartranft and his fellow soldiers as they coasted along the Atlantic. But, braving the storms and waves, passing tempestuous Hatteras and

entering Pamlico Sound, the fortifications of Roanoke Island were soon discovered, before which Hartranft disembarkeed his command and immediately led it through the almost impenetrable swamps in an assault on the Confederate fortifications.

“Quickly following came Newbern and all the engagements of that historic expedition in which Hartranft exhibited his wonderful powers as a regimental and hrigade commander. Having conquered the territory along the Atlantic coast, the troops and the armament of the expedition were again afloat, to be driven hither and thither by storms and surging seas, on the return voyage. In the fortunes of war, he led his command into the second battle at Manassas, and in the darkness of Chantilly he showed his valor in an advance upon the enemy, in which he was only discovered by the flash of his guns. This great Maryland campaign gave new opportunities to test his metal. Through the passes and over South Mountain he led his men in the heroic charges where the gallant Reno died. Then closely followed the most sanguinary struggle at Antietam, in which Hartranft, then back in command of his old regiment, held a position near the famous Stone Bridge. Burnside gave peremptory orders for Hartranft to storm the bridge with the 51st Pennsylvania. If the “Wheat Field” was the “Vortex” of the hattle at Gettysburg, if “Round Top” was the key to the situation in that glorious struggle, then the hridge at Antietam was the salient, the coveted prize and the great point of vantage. Into the severest storm of leaden hail, into a concentrated fire of musketry and artillery, Hartranft led his old regiment, captured, held and defended the Stone Bridge, which act alone made the name of Hartranft forever illustrious in the annals of American warfare and should have given him the rank of a brigadier.

“Another scene of war opens on that dread thirteenth of December, when Hartranft, in command of four regiments, stood on the banks of the Rappahannock waiting to cross its gloomy waters—that river which seemed perdition and all the gates of Inferno opposite. With that loyalty to country and commanders which characterized his military career, he led his men into the jaws of death and made a heroic assault on the invulnerable heights of Frederickshurg, advancing and intrenching his lines and implanting his standard immediately under the dread throats of the enemy’s artillery, where he held his position until most of the army had retired to the north bank of the river.

“In the shifting scenes incident to the military record of Hartranft, he is discovered on the shores of the Mississippi in command of a hrigade supporting the indomitable Grant in the siege of Vicksburg, and soon after he entered the capital city of Mississippi with the victorious column of the old Ninth Corps; whence he moved rapidly into the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee, crossing their turbulent rivers, entering their mountain defiles, surmounting their loftiest altitudes, penetrating the forests of the dark and hloody ground and with his flashing sword always pointing the way for his gallant troops.

"The splendor of a soldier's heroic achievements always adds luster to the nation's brightest glories. Judgment, strategy and bravery are essential elements to constitute a successful military commander. In Hartranft these elements were in a marked degree exhibited in all his distinguished service, thus reflecting additional brilliancy upon the American arms. His powers as a commander were put to a crucial test when, only a colonel of volunteers, he was placed in command of the Second Division of the Ninth Corps in Tennessee. There the army under Burnside was confronted by a force augmented by Longstreet, who had withdrawn his old First Corps, that great phalanx of Confederate veterans, from the army of Northern Virginia. As the formidable force under Longstreet approached the Union position, they were met by Hartranft and their advance checked. As Longstreet deployed his lines, he found at every point a portion of Hartranft's command to retard his advance. Under the personal direction of Hartranft regiments were changed from one flank to the other, as necessity required, and by the keenest strategy time was gained which enabled Burnside's command to escape to Knoxville.

"All the world admired the stand that George H. Thomas made at Chickamauga, where his stubbornness immortalized his name as the "Rock of Chickamauga." History may emphasize the strategy of Xenophon and magnify his sagacity in accomplishing the retreat of the "Ten Thousand Greeks" from the Tigris and from destruction by the Persian host, but where in the history of heroic deeds of heroic commanders can be found the record of a colonel who, in charge of the command of a Major General, handled troops with greater skill, more invincible courage, than was exhibited by Hartranft when placed in battle array with Longstreet, charged with the responsibility of saving an army from capture?

Great as were his achievements in this conflict, however eminent the valor and sagacity displayed, for some unaccountable cause his merited promotion was delayed, and still as a colonel, he brought back the gallant old 51st Regiment to Pennsylvania on its veteran furlough in the winter of 1864.

"Burnside had several times asked for his advancement and demanded that Hartranft should accompany him to the Secretary of War that justice might be done. Hartranft not only refused to go, but objected to any solicitation on the part of his friends, saying, "I feel assured that justice will be done me at Washington at the proper time."

"Again the scenes change, for Hartranft has left the fields of conflict in the southwest and is again with his comrades in the old Army of the Potomac, at the head of a brigade, on the banks of the Rapidan, ready to cross that "Rubicon" to enter the carnage of the Wilderness.

"The hero of Belmont, of Shiloh, of Donaldson and of Vicksburg, had just come from the west and unsheathed his sword above the bristling bayonets of the Army of the Potomac—the greatest chieftain, the greatest soldier and the most formidable army that ever marched under the banner of Christian civilization.

"From the crossing of the Rapidan to Spottsylvania, in that maelstrom of never ceasing clash of arms, in the whirlwind of impetuous charges, Hartranft was everywhere conspicuous, leading, directing and controlling events of which those bloody days were most prolific.

"It was just then, thirty-five years ago to-day, that the nation placed upon the shoulders of our hero the single star of a brigadier, and though it had been earned by meritorious services on other fields of conflict, it seemed to shine brightly because of its delay in coming to one who had so gallantly earned it in as faithful service as was ever rendered the American Union.

"No pen can ever portray, songs of poets or eloquence of sages describe the campaign of Grant with the Army of the Potomac, but however severe the conflict, however dangerous the exploits, Hartranft was always where the battle raged in greatest fury.

"When the army had hewn its way from Spottsylvania through Cold Harbor and crossed the James, it went into the memorable siege of Petersburg. Here a change of command was given Hartranft. One day in the fall of 1864, six thousand stalwart Pennsylvanians who had rendered a few months' service in the "Army of the James," moved across the pontoons of the Appomattox, ascended the heights of Petersburg and stacked arms among the bronzed veterans of the Army of the Potomac. Six thousand glittering bayonets! Six thousand muskets in the hands of the sons of the Keystone State! Regiments officered by men who had previously served in the great army! Regiments whose rank and file were largely made up of beardless boys!

"These Pennsylvanians had withstood an assault at Bermuda Hundred of Pickett's Old Division, and yet as an organization there was wanting a commander. Oh! Fortune, thou wert most kind and true to these Pennsylvanians! It was a great day to them, in memory still adored, when the gallant commander of the old 51st Pennsylvania assumed command of that organization which became the Third Division of the Ninth Corps.

"If the sculptor of that equestrian statue could have seen him as he appeared when assuming command of this body of troops, he could not more perfectly represented him in bronze.

"To-day his soldierly bearing, his stern but gentle demeanor and his piercing black eyes are remembered. Every act, every word, every expression on his splendid face impressed all with his absolute fidelity to duty and his superiority as a commander. No soldier from Alexander the Great, down through the generations of time ever sat more superbly on a horse than did Hartranft.

"This division of Pennsylvanians he led in the Weldon Raid, in the cold and storm of Hatcher's Run, in the long siege of Petersburg, in the carnage of Fort Stedman, in the assault before Fort Hell and through the closing scenes of the great conflict.

In the fortunes of war, it fell to Hartranft to meet, check and repulse

the last, grand, offensive movement of Lee's Army in Northern Virginia. The Confederate General Gordon, under the cover of darkness on that early March morning in 1865, moved upon Fort Stedman and adjacent fortifications, killing, wounding, capturing, or driving precipitately the troops that occupied them. Encouraged by his success, the enemy moved rapidly toward the military road for the purpose of cutting the Army of the Potomac in twain. This body of Confederate veterans passed rapidly through the embattlements of the Union lines, descended into the ravine and went surging up the hill like the waves of the ocean, carrying everything before it in a wild, heroic, but desperate assault. Almost in sight of the military road these Confederates came abruptly upon the bayonets of some of the troops of the Third Division, with Hartranft personally directing their movements. These Pennsylvanians stood like a wall squarely in the path of the advancing Confederates.

"In a few moments the other regiments of the Division came rapidly upon the field, some of them in double time, from far distant camps. It was a gallant spectacle as these regiments, with well filled ranks and banners fluttering in the breeze, swung into their assigned positions.

"Orders were heralded from Corps Headquarters for Hartranft to immediately recapture Stedman. Directions were quickly sent to regimental commanders to be ready to move on a signal which was to be the forward movement of one of the regiments placed in a conspicuous position in sight not only of the enemy, but of the commanders of all of Hartranft's regiments. The movement was about to begin when an officers dashed hurriedly to Hartranft with orders directing a delay until the arrival of re-inforcements. Here was the great emergency in the life of Hartranft! He felt an absolute assurance that his assault would result in the recapture of Stedman. It was a moment when the keenest power of discernment was required, and Hartranft in his entire service never lacked the coolness to decide right. Delay might enable the Confederates to throw into the wide open gates of Stedman a powerful re-inforcing column!

"The immortal Lincoln knew when the time was ripe to promulgate the Emancipation Proclamation. Another of our great Americans, our Honored President McKinley, knew just the time to marshal American freemen under the banner of Christian civilization and give freedom to those oppressed by Spanish rule. Admiral Dewey, in far away Manila Bay, with commendable coolness knew when to say, "Fire when you are ready, Gridley." So Hartranft knew the time had arrived for him to move to the assault in the recapture of Stedman, and he disregarded the delay orders, took his life and his reputation in his hands and led the signalling regiment in that historic charge. The annals of warfare have rarely, if ever exhibited a more magnificent marshal array than that presented by the Third Division when it moved forward for the recapture of Fort Stedman. Rarely has a more brilliant victory been achieved.

"Fortunately for Hartranft, President Lincoln was with the Army of

the Potomac that day. The merits of Hartranft could no longer be disregarded. His fame and name at once became national. He was lauded by corps and army commanders, by Congress, by the President, and was immediately breveted a Major-General of Volunteers.

"Hartranft issued few orders to his troops. Men obeyed him and never thought of doing otherwise. There have been times when troops have paused to advance when ordered by the greatest commanders of the world, but no instance of that kind occurred in the military service of General Hartranft.

"The power of one man is almost omnipotent when he can send an assailing column against a force intrenched behind invulnerable fortifications, when the charge means a thousand men must fall. There was in Hartranft a hidden power which inspired men with courage to go wherever his order directed.

"How omnipotent seemed his power when he stood upon the parapets of Fort Sedgwick on the early Sunday morning of April, 1865. Immediately in front of him in line of battle lay the soldiers of his Division resting upon their arms, waiting in suspense for the signal to advance. Five hundred yards in front stretched the ponderous fortifications, behind which were sheltered the Confederates. The heavens seemed filled with falling and rising meteors, shaking the earth so that at times it seemed to have left its orbit. From the fortifications arose the belching artillery smoke and the flashing fire gleamed red through the dense mist and darkness. All seemed to eddy and swirl and roll before Hartranft like a devouring tempest of fire! On either side of him, from the opening mouths of Fort "Hell" the Union batteries were spitting their fires, but the intrepid Hartranft stood there in the darkness, only discernable through the flash of artillery discharges. Suddenly there was a pause in the thunder of the artillery. A signal for an advance was given. Would these Pennsylvanians arise and advance? Would they quail in this emergency? Would they advance and be hurled back in the tempest of war's most fearful havoc? Hartranft was in command, and there was no reasoning why? Onward they went into the smoke, into the lurid flash of battle. Hartranft beheld them as they crossed the enemy's picket lines; caught a glimpse of them when they reached the almost impenetrable abatis, where strong hands seized and tore away the formidable obstructions and like a resistless avalanche broke the bolts and bars of the chevaux-de-frise, plunged into the waters of the bloody ditch, surmounted the fortifications, and as the first rays of early sunrise appeared, our superb hero, who still stood on Sedgwick, saw the flags of his Division floating from the captured fortifications—the strongest ever defended by Confederate soldiers.

"These are glimpses of the record of Hartranft as a soldier. A record that is bejeweled with the brightest gems that illumine the nation's diadem of glories! His heroism shines with meridian splendor! His valor brightens the pages of American history and adds the most brilliant

luster to the glories of American arms! His achievements give him a foremost place in the immortal congregation of America's distinguished soldiers! His manliness, his sterling integrity, his dauntless courage, and his calm intrepidity—calmest in the presence of the enemy—gave assurance to the people of Pennsylvania of their faith in him, as they chose him the Chief Executive of the Keystone State. This confidence was justified by his fidelity in every function and in the unswerving loyalty to his friends.

"Comrades, you, his old companions in arms who are gathered around this monument; you who followed, loved, served and obeyed the old commander; you who come in your advanced age; you who come burdened with the weight of fatiguing campaigns; you of the old gallant 51st Pennsylvania, who come with honored scars incurred in the many battles in which you fought; you of the Third Division, the heroes of Stedman and the Siege of Petersburg; to you this is the day of almost supreme joy, that the old Commonwealth has placed in bronze, on the Capitol Grounds at Harrisburg, her superb and distinguished citizen soldier, John Frederick Hartranft, and that you, in the providence of Almighty God, have lived to see the realization of your fond hopes. All hail loyal Pennsylvania for thus commemorating the services of our ideal volunteer soldier who has joined the majority of those he commanded, rapidly assembling and marshalling on the shore of Eternity, whither you must so soon report to the Great Commander of all.

"It is a somewhat solemn commentary that to the survivors of the great army the lengthening shadows are rapidly growing! The sunset is approaching! The evening gun will soon be fired! The tatoo sounded! And from the heroic bugle, solemn "taps" will echo the final muster out.

"Following these departing heroes, comes the swelling tide of future generations, and looking down the vista of time, we may behold this seemingly endless column swinging into line and marching up to the fields of human action, replacing generations that melt away before them with that irresistible fate common to the human race. The towers, the monuments and the tombs upon the Appian Way were erected to impress the Roman citizen with the power of kings and the glories of the Roman Empire.

"Let the monuments we erect, such as we have here unveiled to-day, be a guide to these rising columns of future Americans and be teachers of patriotism and devotion to our flag and land!

"Now, imperishable granite and bronze, truthfully representing the hero of Stedman, as heroic as he was when, in the prime of life mounted upon his superb charger as our beloved commander—stand here as a sentinel on the embattlements of our great nation! The granite of New England and the granite of the South combined in thy foundation, denote the perpetuity of the American Republic and are also emblematic of the re-uniting of all the people of this happy land. Stand—as a beacon to

guide the nation's children in the path of loyalty! Stand—to be a well-spring of patriotism from which the future sons and daughters of Pennsylvania may drink copiously! Stand—near the banks of the beautiful Susquehanna, with its murmuring waters moving resistlessly from the mountains to the sea, and proclaim in silent eloquence how the hero of Stedman served his country in the hour of its peril. Stand here—and resist the elements and the decay of time—only excelled in thy indestructibility by the indestructibility of this American Union."

Following the address of Major Brown, speeches were made by Gen. Kyd Douglas, of the Confederate Army, by Charles Emory Smith, by Gen. Corbin and R. A. Alger, Secretary of War. At the conclusion of their addresses, a call was made for the sculptor, Mr. F. W. Ruckstuhl, who was introduced by the Governor, and the manner in which he was received indicated the general approval of the work that was the product of his hand and brain.

Gen. Dodd was selected as Chief Mrshal of the parade, and was much admired by all his comrades for his soldierly bearing.

In the account of the unveiling ceremonies, there are many important features that should be given a place in the history of the occasion and the part taken by the survivors of the Third Division, which unfortunately the space assigned to us will not permit us to mention.

Thus there was erected this equestrian statue to Major General Hartranft to commemorate his distinguished services entirely within the sum appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose, the entire expense being a trifle less than \$18,000, or \$15,000 less than was paid by the State for either of the equestrian statues hereinbefore referred to erected on the battlefield of Gettysburg. The action of the commission was highly commended, for it was generally expected that they would come back to the Legislature at some subsequent session and ask for a deficiency appropriation. No one took a more just pride in the results of the work that was assigned to this commission by the act of the Legislature than did the Survivors of the old division.

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#### FIFTH REUNION.

ON THE 17th of May, 1901, the fifth reunion of the Survivors was held at Harrisburg under most favorable conditions, it being the first reunion after the unveiling of the Hartranft equestrian statue. The several regiments held their reunions in the different apartments of the State Capitol, and embraced the opportunity of recounting many of the incidents of their service in the Army of the James, and the Army of the Potomac. The members of the 200th Regiment always felt justified in recalling the stand they made in checking the advance of the Confederate Army at the time of the battle of Fort Stedman. Hart-

ranft at one time had said that the bravery of the 200th Regiment in holding the enemy at bay undoubtedly had a most potent influence in hastening Appomattox, for the reason that had the Confederate plans to sever the Army of the Potomac and destroy its base of supplies succeeded, Appomattox would have been delayed. Among the hundreds of regiments of which the Army of the Potomac was composed, that participated in the Siege of Petersburg, a single regiment may be regarded as a pawn on the chess board of war. Yet a single regiment placed in a particular position may have had an opportunity to deliver such telling blows to the enemy as to materially affect the general results. This was certainly true of the 200th Regiment. When so placed by Hartranft it was enabled by an exhibition of valor to decide the results of the conflict at Stedman, and thus hasten the dawn of peace.

Not often have regimental commands responded with greater earnestness and determination than did this regiment, and if at its reunions the survivors have dwelt upon the incident, and felt a glory in the victory won, they have been justified in so doing.

At the reunions of the 205th Regiment, the survivors have taken great pride in the heroic conduct of their major at the battle of Fort Mahone, and in the heroic conduct of its officers and men.

The 207th Regiment in the assault on Fort Mahone lost more officers and men than any other regiment in the Army of the Potomac, and at their reunions they have never failed to express their admiration for their Colonel, Robert C. Cox, who in command of their brigade, led them so gallantly.

The 208th Regiment was justified in telling of the valor exhibited by that regiment at Stedman, when they formed a line at right angles to the main fortification, and assisted the troops of the First Division in preventing the further destruction of the Union embattlements. They were also justified in the satisfaction they felt as they responded so willingly to the orders for the assault in front of Fort Sedgwick.

The 209th survivors also spoke with pride at the support they gave the 200th Regiment at the carnage of Stedman, and of the bravery of their officers not only at Stedman, but in other engagements where they were called upon to meet the enemy.

The survivors of the 211th Regiment at any of their reunions never failed to refer to the part they played in the battle of Fort Stedman, and in the sanguinary siege of Petersburg. In the history of the wars of the United States it has not often occurred that a regiment encamped more than five miles from the scene of battle was called upon in the manner in which the 211th was called upon on the morning of March 25th, 1865. When the order came to them at break of day to move to the rear line of works near Meade's Station, a distance of over five miles, it was not a "march," nor a "double quick," it was a dead run to get into the battle line and participate in the final assault. On its way to the engagement

it was observed by the enemy many times, and whenever it was in sight of the enemy's artillery, the air was filled with shells, but it never feazed the regiment on its onward rush to battle. When it appeared on the top of the hill near Meade's Station, formed its line of battle, fixed bayonets, and moved to the front, it was in view of all the other regiments of the division, as well as that of the enemy. Hartranft was waiting for the arrival of this regiment before ordering the assault, and he led it to the desired position in full view of the Confederates. It was an inspiration to him when, at 7:30 A. M., on that morning he observed the long line of the 211th on the hill, and he said, "The regiment lifted itself with cadenced step over the brow of the hill, and swept down in magnificent style toward Fort Stedman."

These are a few incidents of the war to which reference is always made at all reunions, and the record of these regiments as inscribed on the pages of American history, certainly reflects no little credit upon the soldiers of Pennsylvania.

At the fifth reunion one conspicuous figure was absent. He who had commanded the Ninth Corps in so many of its campaigns and battles, had responded to the grim messenger; General John G. Parke was no more. A committee was appointed to take appropriate action with reference to the life and services of this distinguished soldier, and a report was made prior to the adjournment of the reunion. The following is the report of the committee:

Since our last meeting upon the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of our heroic commander, Major General John F. Hartranft, death has been busy in the ranks of his division, and has reaped almost as rich a harvest as upon the deadly plains before Fort Stedman and Petersburg. Our division is scattered throughout nearly every county of Pennsylvania, and its members dwell all the way from the Atlantic coast to the Rocky Mountains. It is therefore impossible to note each one as he falls. It is only when the assembly is sounded, when the men are ordered into line, that the roll call reveals the absence of many loved comrades who so gallantly performed their whole duty in the field. Within the past two years death has spared neither field officers nor staff; neither line officers nor the men who marched in the ranks. We yield a willing tribute to their valor in war, their fidelity as citizens of a united country, and we render honor to their memory.

To the two living generals of our Division, General Robert C. Cox, of Wellsboro, and General Levi A. Dodd, of Baltimore, and to many other comrades who on account of illness or affliction are not with us to-day, we send kindly greeting, and we cherish the hope that they may meet with us at our next reunion.

The commander of our corps, the friend of our own Hartranft, has also passed away, and we are called upon to-day to record our estimate of his worth and of our own sorrow.

John G. Parke was born in Pennsylvania, September 22, 1827. Graduating from West Point in 1849, he joined the engineer corps of the U. S. Army. Shortly after the outbreak of the Rebellion, he was made Brigadier General of Volunteers, and commanded a brigade in the expedition to North Carolina, under his old friend General Burnside. He participated in that victorious campaign, and for signal services rendered was promoted to the rank of major general.

Throughout the war he saw only active service. Wherever the Ninth Corps was, there was Parke. In the battles and sieges of North Carolina, at South Mountain and Antietam, in Maryland and before Vicksburg, and at Jackson in the far west. Returning eastward, we see him in Kentucky and Tennessee, defending that flag which to him was a sacred symbol. Shut up in Knoxville during the siege, his calm self-possession, his skill and untiring energy, were potent factors in the heroic defense, and in those decisive victories which drove back the enemy, and saved the beleaguered city.

Back again in Virginia, we find him taking part in that memorable campaign under Grant, from the Rapidan to Petersburg.

From August, 1864, he was in command of the Ninth Army Corps, and his services in the field ceased only at Appomattox. The war over, he resumed his duties in the engineer department, where he rendered eminent, though inconspicuous services to his country.

For two years he was superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy, at West Point. In 1889, upon the expiration of forty years of faithful and continuous service, he was retired at his own request.

Such in brief was Parke as a soldier, but friendship marks his death with no common sorrow, and let us regard him for a moment as a man.

His innate and unaffected modesty, the absence in his character of any trace of selfish ambition, made General Parke less conspicuous latterly than many men of inferior mould.

Within the home circle, and among his friends, his warm and generous affections were expended, and the charm of his character appreciated.

In the unchangeable verities of the Christian religion, General Parke was a sincere believer. His simple faith prompted him to works of mercy and love. It hallowed his joys and sustained him in the crushing sorrow which overshadowed the evening of his life. The gallant and knightly Parke will not sleep forgotten. In the grateful recollection of his countrymen his fame is secure. His private virtues will long be garnered up in the hearts of his sorrowing friends, and we who served under him place on record this tribute of gratitude for what General Parke was to his country, and to his comrades.

Committee: Col. R. H. I. Goddard, chairman; Capt. George Graybill, T. Whittaker, Maj. M. G. Hale, Dr. J. E. Van Camp, Captain Sands, Maj. A. C. Huidekoper.

## SIXTH REUNION.

**O**N THE 27th of March, 1903, the survivors again assembled in reunion at Harrisburg. While the grim harvester, death, had greatly decimated the ranks of the survivors of the division, still a goodly number responded to the call; yet the hand of time had been heavy upon the Survivors, and many who would have been glad to be present, found it more compatible with their condition to remain at home.

The reunion was held in the House of Representatives, as well as the camp fire in the evening. The Indian School Band from Carlisle was present. Hon. Samuel Pennypacker was then governor, and delivered a most excellent speech to the Survivors. Prior to his introduction the band played "Memories of the War." It is not difficult to understand what an inspiring effect this medley of the songs of war time has upon the minds of the surviving soldiers when beautifully rendered, and the presence of the Indian School Band furnished the theme for the introduction of Governor Pennypacker's speech. He said he was delighted to be present not only to meet the soldiers of Hartranft's Division, but also to speak in the presence of representatives of the first inhabitants of America, and to observe from them the possibilities of development in the descendants of the original inhabitants of the country.

## SEVENTH REUNION.

**A**T HARRISBURG, on May 24th, 1906, the seventh and last reunion of the division was held.

At this reunion legislation was asked for that a monument might be erected on one of the battlefields of Petersburg to commemorate the services of the six regiments of Pennsylvania Volunteers that constituted the Third Division of the Ninth Corps. The Survivors felt justified in making this request for the reason that all of the Pennsylvania men who participated in the battle of Gettysburg had had monuments erected on that field in commemoration of their services on other battlefields in Virginia, Mississippi, and Tennessee, and in other States the Legislatures had provided for the erection of monuments to regimental commands. It was also felt that there was merit in the services of these six regiments that would justify the Legislature in making the necessary appropriation.

It is true that the State had been liberal in its appropriation for the equestrian statue of Hartranft, who was the commander of the division, yet while the Survivors felt that Hartranft was a most potent factor in making them the soldiers they proved to be in action, and for whom they felt the greatest admiration, still knowing full well that the star he won at Stedman could not have been so won except through the services of the officers and men of the Third Division, it did not seem out of place to ask the Commonwealth that as a division they have placed on the soil of Virginia a monument that would tell future generations of the gallant part



Monument to 3<sup>d</sup> Div. 2<sup>d</sup> Corps  
Army of the Potomac



the Third Division took in securing the perpetuity of the American Union. Therefore a resolution was passed and a committee appointed, which was instructed to prepare a bill, have it introduced into the legislature, and take whatever action might be necessary to secure its passage and approval.

Before adjournment a resolution was passed to have the eighth reunion held at Harrisburg two years hence, but owing to delays incident to the erection of the monument at Petersburg, it was thought advisable to postpone the next reunion until the time should be fixed for the unveiling of the monument. When, however, the time came for the unveiling of the monument at Petersburg, and the Survivors appeared on the historic and sanguinary field of the Siege of Petersburg, the fatigue incident to the ceremonies was so great that the Survivors had to abandon holding the reunion at Petersburg. Since that time no arrangements have ever been made for another reunion, and none may ever be held.

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#### THE PETERSBURG MONUMENT.

**I**N PURSUANCE of the action taken at the Seventh Annual Reunion of the survivors of the division at Harrisburg, a bill was prepared making an appropriation for the erection of the monument, and for the appointment of a commission to give efficacy to the provisions of the bill. The following is a copy of the act. It is found in Pamphlet Laws of 1907, page 623.

No. 485.

#### AN ACT

To provide for the appointment of the Battlefield Commission of the Third Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac, and empowering that Commission to erect a monument on the battlefield of Petersburg, commemorative of the services rendered and the bravery displayed by the troops of Pennsylvania composing the First and Second Brigades of the Third Division commanded by the late Brevet Major General John Frederick Hartranft; and making an appropriation for the cost of such monument, its erection and dedication, the expenses of the Commission, and the transportation of the survivors of said troops from Pennsylvania to Petersburg, Virginia and return, at the time of the dedication of such monument.

Whereas, In the summer of one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four six regiments of infantry of Pennsylvania Volunteers were recruited, and served during the balance of the war in the Army of the James and in the Army of the Potomac, and during their services in the Army of the Potomac they constituted the First and Second Brigades of the Third Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac, commanded by Brevet Major General John Frederic Hartranft, said brigades being composed of the Two Hundredth, Two Hundred and Fifth, Two Hundred and Seventh, Two Hundred and Eighth, Two Hundred and Ninth and Two Hundred and Eleventh Regiments, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry; and

Whereas, Said regiments of Infantry of the Pennsylvania line, for practically their entire term of service were in the presence of the enemy and under fire constantly, participating in the engagements at Bermuda Hundred, the Weldon Raid, the Hatcher's Run campaign, the Siege of Petersburg, the battle of Fort Stedman, and the battle of Petersburg, and in the two latter engagements suffered great loss and exhibited gallantry and heroism rarely excelled in the history of warfare, their conduct being so gallant as to merit special orders of commendation from General Meade, in command of

the Army of the Potomac, and Lieutenant General Grant, then in command of the armies of the United States, and by virtue of which Brigadier General Frederick Hartranft, in immediate command, was raised to the rank of Brevet Major General United States Volunteers; and

Whereas, Provision has heretofore been made for the erection of monuments on battle-fields, commemorative of the services of other Pennsylvania organizations, none having been up to this time erected to commemorate the distinguished services of these troops of the Pennsylvania line; therefore

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c. That the Governor of the Commonwealth be and he is hereby empowered to appoint a commission, to be known as the Battlefield Commission of the third Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac; said Commission to comprise one surviving veteran from each of the six regiments of Pennsylvania Volunteers that constituted the First and Second Brigades of the Third Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac, said regiments being the Two Hundredth, Two Hundred and Fifth, Two Hundred and Seventh, Two Hundred and Eighth, Two Hundred and Ninth and Two Hundred and Eleventh Regiments of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry: Provided, That the president of each regimental association shall nominate to the Governor a suitable veteran for appointment on said Commission; and provided further, That the Governor of the Commonwealth shall be ex-officio a member of such Commission, clothed with the same power as other members of said commission.

Section 2. That as soon as practicable after the members of said Commission shall have been selected, as provided for in the first section of this act, the members thereof shall meet at the State Capitol in Harrisburg, and organize by the election of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and such committees as, under the usual rules of procedure, said Commission shall deem proper. That when said Commission shall have been so organized it shall be empowered and authorized to erect, or cause to be erected, a suitable monument, on either the battlefield of Fort Stedman, or the battlefield of Petersburg, commemorative of the services of the men of the First and Second Brigades of the Third Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac, composed of the Two Hundred and Fifth, Two Hundred and Seventh, Two Hundred and Eighth, Two Hundred and Ninth, and Two Hundred and Eleventh regiments, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Brevet Major General John Frederick Hartranft, That said Commission is empowered to select a site for the erection of a monument on one of the battlefields named. If on the battlefield of Fort Stedman, it shall be at or near the location of Fort Stedman, which fort was recaptured from the Confederates on the twenty-fifth of March, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five; and if on the battlefield of Petersburg, it shall be at or near Fort Mahone, upon which these troops made a successful assault on the morning of the second of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five. That said Commission shall have power to purchase such plot or plots of ground, in the name of the Commonwealth, as may seem to such Commission as essential, upon which to erect the monument herein provided; and shall have, also, supervision over the exercises which may be had in the dedication of said monument; and shall have power to have such inscriptions and data placed on said monument as they may deem proper in relation to the distinguished services of these regiments of the Pennsylvania line, in the war for the perpetuity of this Republic.

Section 3. That at the time of the dedication of the monument, as provided in the second section of this act, said Battlefield Commission be and is hereby authorized and empowered to arrange, over the most direct line of railroad, transportation for the survivors of the Pennsylvania Regiments referred to in this act from their nearest railroad point in Pennsylvania to the city of Petersburg, Virginia, and return; and if such surviving soldiers shall reside outside of the State of Pennsylvania, their transportation shall be furnished from the nearest railroad point in Pennsylvania to their place of residence, and from such railroad point to Petersburg and return; it being understood that all honorably discharged survivors of these organizations shall be furnished transportation as herein indicated, that they may attend the dedication of the monument to be erected by this act.

Section 4. That said Commission shall have full power to arrange a system of blanks upon which application for transportation may be made, which blanks, among other things, shall provide for the full name of the surviving veteran making application, his age, place of residence, the name of the railroad station in Pennsylvania nearest his place of residence, and his rank in the company and regiment of said organization in which he served: Provided, That any person falsely representing himself to be a member of said organization, and entitled to transportation under this act, shall be guilty of a



George W. Aughenbaugh, of York, Pennsylvania, 200th Regiment, Treasurer of the Battlefield Commission and presiding officer at the unveiling at Fort Stedman.



Captain James H. Frederick, of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, 207th Regiment, member of the Battlefield Commission.



Milton A. Embick, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 209th Regiment, Secretary of the Battlefield Commission.



Major Isaac B. Brown, of Corry, Pennsylvania, 211th Regiment, President of the Third Division and President of Battlefield Commission.



Reverend Henry Whittaker, of Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania, 205th Regiment, member of Battlefield Commission.



W. S. Seabold, of Annville, of Pennsylvania, 208th Regiment, member of the Battlefield Commission.



misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars and imprisoned not more than six months, or both or either, at the discretion of the court before whom conviction is had.

Section 5. That for the purpose of the erection of this monument, the expense of the Commission, the expense of the dedication, and the transportation from Pennsylvania to Petersburg and return, of the survivors of the organization herein mentioned, the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated: For the monument and its site, fifteen thousand dollars. For the expense of the Commission, the dedication of the monument, and the transportation of the survivors to Petersburg and return, the sum of six thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary: Provided, That the members of this Commission shall serve without any compensation whatever, but any necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of the duties as herein provided shall be paid out of the appropriation for that purpose: Provided, further, That the Governor shall issue to each veteran member of this Commission a certificate of his appointment, properly engrossed, bearing the seal of the Commonwealth, and the signature of the Governor, and attested by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Approved—The 13th day of June, A. D. 1907. . . .

EDWIN S. STUART.

Under the terms of this law a commission consisting of the Governor and a representative from each regiment was provided for, to be selected in a similar manner to that provided for the selection of the commission that erected the equestrian statue of Hartranft.

Gov. Edwin S. Stuart, then chief executive of the Commonwealth, was a member of the Commission, but in the multiplicity of duties devolving upon him as governor, he was never able to meet with the commission, and consequently the duties devolved almost entirely upon the other members, the membership of which was composed almost entirely of those who had served on the Hartranft statue commission. They were as follows: Geo. W. Aughenbaugh, of the 200th Regiment, Henry Elway, of the 205th Regiment, J. W. Fredericks, of the 207th Regiment, W. S. Seabold, of the 208th Regiment, M. A. Embick, of the 209th Regiment, and Isaac B. Brown, of the 211th Regiment. Soon after the commission organized, Henry Elway, of the 205th Regiment, resigned, and the president of the regimental organization appointed Rev. Henry Whittaker as a member of the commission to fill the vacancy. The Commission was organized by the election of Isaac B. Brown as president, and M. A. Embick, as secretary. Several meetings were held with regard to the design of the proposed monument. Proposals were solicited, and the propositions received were all considered at fully attended meetings of the Commission, and a contract was finally entered into with Jones Bros., of Boston, as contractors, and with Mr. F. W. Ruckstuhl, as sculptor. The contract so entered into was filed in the office of the Auditor General of Pennsylvania, and by him approved.

The design of the monument as shown by the cut published herewith, is an obelisk sixty feet in height, constructed of Barre granite, somewhat after the style of the obelisk standing on Bunker Hill, Mass., erected in memory of those who fought there on June 17th, 1775, under General Warren. At the base of the obelisk the contract provided for a bronze statue of the typical young soldier, representing as it does so great a number of the men who made up the Third Division. The sculptor of this

bronze soldier gleaned his idea largely from an incident that occurred at the time of the assault on Fort Mahone. In that assault the 207th Regiment was the leading Regiment in the assaulting column. Its color bearer was pierced by seven bullets as the head of the column reached the Confederate fortifications, and the flag was immediately taken from his hands by one of the color guards and carried through the rest of the battle. An examination of the cut of the monument will convey the idea that the color bearer has fallen; a corporal of the color guard has thrown his own gun to his left hand, has grasped the fallen flag, and holds it up in defiance to the enemy. Briefly this is a description of the monument and the bronze figure of the young volunteer soldier boy.

As on all other similar occasions there was some dissatisfaction manifested among the competitors for this monument. Human nature is so weak generally, that it is difficult to make every one feel satisfied that the best course has been pursued. The members of the Commission, however, are a unit in their belief that they made the best selection from the models presented, and that the monument and the bronze statue fully measure up to the highest standards of art and sculpture, and fittingly represent the young soldier, and the valor that was exhibited on the field where the monument is erected.

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#### SELECTION OF A SITE.

UNDER the terms of the act providing for this monument, the Commission was given discretionary powers as to the location of the monument, either at or near Fort Stedman, or at any location on the battlefield of Petersburg, where the division was engaged. At first the sentiment seemed to be in favor of Fort Stedman as a site for its location. But on going over the Fort Stedman battlefield, it was found that it had largely grown up to young timber; was somewhat out of the way, and that a monument erected there would be to no small extent hidden from public view, and therefore the lesson of patriotism which it was thought would be taught by this monument would in a measure lose its force, and that it would not accomplish results desired as much at Fort Stedman as it would if erected on what is generally designated as the battlefield of Petersburg.

Some feeling was manifested by the survivors of the 200th Regiment against locating the monument at any place except Fort Stedman, and they were justified in this from their standpoint, for the reason that at Fort Stedman this regiment had displayed a courage and bravery of the highest character. Mr. Aughenbaugh, the member of the Commission representing that regiment, explained to his comrades that this was a division, not a regimental monument, and that it would be much better to erect it upon the ground over which the assault was made upon the morning of April 2nd, 1865. If so located, it would be close to the Jerusalem

Plank Road, a very notable highway during the Civil War, and a much traveled thoroughfare where thousands of people would see the monument, instead of the few who would see it at Stedman. When the matter was fully explained to the survivors of the 200th Regiment, they acquiesced in the location which the Commission had agreed upon, and the monument was located on the site of Fort Mahone on the enemies' fortifications and directly opposite Fort Sedgwick, known during the Civil War as Fort "Hell." (Fort Mahone being known as Fort "Damnation.") To determine the exact location of Fort Mahone required some study, as this formidable earthwork and the adjacent fortifications had been leveled to the earth for more than twenty years; yet the fortifications along the Union lines opposite and including Fort Sedgwick had never been disturbed. Old maps of war time days showing the location of the different forts were examined and correspondence was had with both Union and Confederate officers to determine the exact location of Fort Mahone. One of the members of the Commission, however, was within the fortifications of Fort Mahone seventeen years after the close of the war, and remembered distinctly its location; therefore his statements had some influence with the members of the Commission in satisfying themselves as to the accuracy of the location. Fort Mahone was so named on account of the distinguished services of William Mahone, who lived in Petersburg, after the war, and who rendered brilliant service to the Confederate cause at the siege of Petersburg. Many of the members of his old command were living in Petersburg, and belonged to A. P. Hill Camp Confederate Veterans of Petersburg. A committee of these Confederate Veterans had visited the battlefield soon after Fort Mahone was leveled to the earth, and had placed a marker on the site of this well known fort. The Commission was therefore entirely satisfied that it had secured the correct location, and negotiated with the owners of the land for the purchase of 50 feet square upon which to erect the monument. A deed was procured, and a title to the land certifying that it was clear of all encumbrance, which was placed on record in Prince George Court House, Va., and the deed filed in the office of the Auditor General of Pennsylvania.

It is proper to say here that some controversy has existed ever since the war as to whether Fort Mahone was captured from the enemy on that memorable 2nd of April, 1865. The official records of the war, and the recollections of the surviving soldiers, indicate that the assaulting column under the command of General Hartranft, was formed in front of Fort Sedgwick, just at a point where the Jerusalem Plank Road passed through a section of this most formidable fortification. The first column moved to the westward, and struck the earthworks to the left of where the Jerusalem Plank Road passed through the enemies' fortifications. Having secured lodgment there, and driven the enemy away, or taken them prisoners, they moved to the left along the Confederate fortification until they came by flank movement upon the almost impregnable alignments of Fort

Mahone. Here a most stubborn resistance was made, but the soldiers of Hartranft's Division scaled the northern embattlements of the fort, and during the entire day fought with the enemy, until three or four o'clock in the afternoon, the assault having been made just at break of day. The writer of this article is of the opinion that the fort was captured only in part, and that some of its traverses were held by the enemy, until late at night on the 2nd of April. However, it is a certainty that Hartranft's men captured in whole or in part the renowned Fort Mahone, and therefore there is not the slightest doubt but that the location of the monument on the site of Fort Mahone is entirely justified. The recollections of the commanding officers from General Parke down to the commanders of regiments, also justified this action, and while occasionally other troops may question the accuracy of the location, it is believed that no well authenticated records can be found, or that the evidence of any soldiers who had opportunity to know, can in any way refute the position taken by the survivors of the Third Division, or by the Commission that erected the monument.

The monument having been erected on the site of Fort Mahone, the Battlefield Commission commenced preparation for the unveiling of the monument, and the assembling of the survivors of the division to be present on the occasion of the unveiling. The addresses of the survivors were ascertained as far as possible, and it was found that there was not a sufficient amount of money appropriated to enable the Commission to defray the expense of transportation from the homes of the survivors to Petersburg and return. This condition was in part due to the fact that it was impossible to make arrangements with the railroad companies to carry the veterans at a rate of one cent per mile, a figure that had obtained in several other cases where the veterans were taken to southern battlefields to be present at the unveiling of other monuments. It was decided therefore, to ask the Legislature at the session of 1909 for an additional appropriation, and a bill was prepared and introduced, and while there was some delay in securing the passage of the bill and its approval by the Governor, the measure finally became a law, and is found in Pamphlet Laws of 1909, page 133.

The people of Petersburg were anxious that the occasion of the unveiling should be a memorable one, and they, together with the Governor of Virginia, united with the Commission in extending an invitation to the President of the United States to be present at the unveiling.

A resolution was also passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, which is found in Pamphlet Laws of 1909, page 927, of which the following is a copy:

No. 10.

In the Senate, March 9, 1909.

To invite the President of the United States and his Cabinet to be present at the unveiling of the monument erected on the Battlefield of Petersburg, to the Third Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac.

Whereas, By enactment of the General Assembly for the year one thousand nine hundred and seven, provision was made for the appointment, by the Governor of the

Commonwealth, of the Battlefield Commission, of the Third Division, Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac, charged with the duty of erecting a monument on the Battlefield of Petersburg, Virginia, to commemorate the services and the sacrifices of the Pennsylvania soldiers who composed said division of troops, which Commission was also charged with the responsibility of transporting the surviving veterans to Petersburg and return, as well as to have supervision of the ceremonies incident to the unveiling of said monument, and

Whereas, The mayor of the city of Petersburg, and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia have by correspondence with said Battlefield Commission, expressed a desire to unite with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in extending an invitation to the President of the United States and his Cabinet to be present at the unveiling of said monument; therefore, be it

Resolved (if the House concur), That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania respectfully invite the Honorable W. H. Taft, President of the United States, and his Cabinet, to be present at Petersburg, Virginia, on the occasion of the unveiling of the monument erected on the Battlefield of Petersburg, Virginia, commemorating the services and sacrifices of the soldiers of Pennsylvania who constituted said Division, and that a committee, composed of two Senators named by the President pro tempore of the Senate, and three members of the House of Representatives named by the Speaker, be appointed to act jointly with the Battlefield Commission of the Third Division, the mayor and the municipal authorities of the city of Petersburg, and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in extending such invitation to the President and his Cabinet.

Approved—The 31st day of March, A. D. 1909.

EDWIN S. STUART.

It was agreed that a committee consisting of the Mayor and Councils of Petersburg, together with the State authorities of Virginia, and those of Pennsylvania, should meet in Washington, and formally extend an invitation to the President. Accordingly a joint committee met in Washington, at the Arlington Hotel, organized and selected Major Isaac B. Brown to address the President at the time of holding the interview with him. This occurred soon after the Hon. William H. Taft was inaugurated President, and also at a time when he was receiving many invitations to visit different portions of the country. Hon. M. E. Olmsted, member of Congress from Pennsylvania, introduced the members of the joint committee to the President, to whom through the party selected to address the President, the invitation was extended.

The committee had suggested the 19th of May, 1909, as the time for the unveiling, but were ready to make a change of date if such change would better suit the convenience of the President.

The response of the President was most gratifying. Among other things he said that he had been President only a short time, but that he had been President long enough to establish the fact that he could not accept all the invitations which would be extended to him; but he had not been President long enough to refuse an invitation which came from the States of Virginia and Pennsylvania, and he therefore accepted the invitation.

The Battlefield Commission, delighted with the result of their effort to secure the attendance of the President, commenced the work of arranging with the railroad companies for transportation. The regiments were

finally assembled at Harrisburg and York, where on the evening of May 18th, 1909, they embarked on three special trains for Petersburg, where they were to be again on the field of battle which but few of them had seen since the war.

Under the arrangements made by the Commission, a hotel was established as a rendezvous for each regiment, and then the survivors of each organization selected officers to command them during the trip, and marched to the station in perfect order, all delighted that they were to have an opportunity, to visit the old battle fields, and to see unveiled a monument erected to commemorate their services.

An enjoyable feature of the return to Petersburg, was the fact that the veterans were conveyed in Pullman sleeping cars, while when they went to the front during the Civil War, they were conveyed in any kind of old gondola or box cars. It was a frequent remark as they boarded the trains that they were moving with much more comfort than when they went as soldiers to engage in the strife that imperiled the existence of the nation.

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#### A MARKER AT FORT STEDMAN.

**B**EFORE giving an account of the unveiling ceremonies of the monument at Fort Mahone, some reference should be made of the marker that the commission had placed within the fortifications of Fort Stedman.

Among those who were disappointed in the decision to locate the monument at Fort Mahone was one of the contracting parties, Jones Brothers Company. This company was composed of the sons of Lieutenant Jones, of the 209th Regiment, who was killed in the battle of Fort Stedman. When, therefore, the commission decided on Fort Mahone as the location of the monument, these loyal, devoted and patriotic sons of Lieutenant Jones, practically agreed to erect a magnificent marker at Fort Stedman at their own expense, and this agreement was made a part of the contract.

The commission secured the right to erect this marker and placed on record the lease so that the right would be perpetual.

This marker is of formidable dimensions, weighing many tons, and is erected near the center of the embattlements of Fort Stedman.

Decades and centuries will pass and this granite marker will scarcely be affected by the march of ages, so that generation after generation will be told of the fight at Stedman which was witnessed by the immortal Abraham Lincoln.

On the face of this marker, which fronts to the eastward, is a superb bronze tablet of large size, and on this tablet is briefly told the story of the Third Division at Fort Stedman.

At the top of the tablet is the ever beautiful Ninth Army Corps Badge, with its "cross-cannon and anchor," telling of the exploits of that wonderful corps in the service of the country on both land and sea.



Monument at Fort Stedman.



Then follows the inscription. He who is called upon to prepare an inscription for a bronze tablet or monument, must proceed along truthful and conservative lines especially when he is to describe in the fewest words possible the conduct of a body of soldiers in a battle where other troops are engaged. The inscription in order to stand the test of time, must be so supported by facts as to be invulnerable from every point of view.

Such we believe is the character of the inscription on the Fort Stedman Marker.

Whole ages may pass into oblivion and nations may rise and fall but the truth of the inscription on the Third Division Marker at Stedman, will never fade. Here it is:

FORT STEDMAN.

IN THE LAST GRAND OFFENSIVE MOVEMENT OF LEE'S ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, FORT STEDMAN WITH ADJACENT WORKS WAS CAPTURED AT 4.30 A. M. MARCH 25TH, 1865. BY A WELL SELECTED BODY OF CONFEDERATES UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL JOHN B. GORDON.

AN ADVANCE WAS MADE WITH GREAT DETERMINATION OVER THE BROKEN UNION LINES. THEN THROUGH THE RAVINE AND UP THE RISING GROUNDS TO THE EASTWARD. FOR THE PURPOSE OF CUTTING THE U. S. MILITARY R. R. AND THUS MAKE SUCCESSFUL THE CONFEDERATE PLAN OF SEVERING THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC AND DESTROYING ITS BASE OF SUPPLIES AT CITY POINT.

THIS MOVEMENT WAS CHECKED AND THE DIRECT ASSAULT IN THE RECAPTURE OF THESE EMBATTLEMENTS. WAS MADE BY THE THIRD DIVISION, NINTH CORPS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, IN WHOSE MEMORY THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA."

The Battlefield Commission is profoundly thankful to the Jones Brothers, for their liberality, through which it was possible to place an enduring marker at Fort Stedman.

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MONEYS APPROPRIATED.

THE MONEYS appropriaed by the Legislature, and placed in the hands of the Battlefield Commission have been carefully expended or accounted for. Economy has characterized expenditures and it is devoutly believed the very best results have been secured. The monument at Fort Mahone is generally rated as a \$50,000 monument, while it cost the State of Pennsylvania, less than one third that amount.

Of other moneys appropriated to the commission, there was turned back into the State Treasury, the sum of three thousand dollars.

This was a surprise to the State Treasurer, who in acknowledging the receipt of this amount, said it was an unusual thing to turn back into the treasury any moneys that had been drawn out on requisition.

There is still an unexpended balance in the hands of the commission which will be accounted for when other work, authorized by law has been finished.

The Legislature at its session of 1911 passed an act appropriating five

hundred dollars for the publication of a history of the division including the exercises incident to the dedication of the monuments to the division May 19th, 1909. It also appropriated a like amount for the editing, compiling, proof reading and indexing the publication and at the same time made available the surplus in the hands of the commission to secure the publication.

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DEDICATION OF THE MONUMENTS TO THE THIRD DIVISION  
9TH ARMY CORPS AT FORTS MAHONE AND STEDMAN,  
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA, MAY 19, 1909.

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BY HON. MILTON A. EMBICK, 209TH.

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THE DEDICATION of the two monuments to the Third Division of the Ninth Corps Army of the Potomac, the one on Fort Mahone, of granite, sixty feet high, and the other at Fort Stedman, less pretentious but setting forth on its bronze tablet a great historical fact, was a fitting culmination of the history of a Division whose members first fell in line and kept step to the beat of the drum nearly a half century before this final act in their history.

It is recorded that President Lincoln on a visit to the Army of the Potomac stood on the brow of a hill and saw the surging columns of the Division, as they charged over the plains against the corps of General Gordon, winning a signal victory; so it was fitting that another President William H. Taft, in another and later century should be present at the dedication of these monuments and by his presence honor the Division as the Division has honored its country and sustained its country's flag.

The military history of the Division is from the pen of Major A. C. Huidekoper, a member of that gallant regiment, the 211th, that for five miles charged in double time from their camp to the battlefield of Stedman. Everything contained in Major Huidekoper's article has been subjected to the merciless tests of the historical and military critics of the annals pertaining to that heroic age. "Nothing has been extenuated nor aught set down in malice," and the surviving members of the Division and their descendants can read with renewed interest the garnerings of their deeds and the deeds of their fathers.

The history of the Survivor's Association of the Third Division is from the pen of one to whom the Divison owes a debt of deepest gratitude. To Major Isaac B. Brown, President of the Division Association for twenty years the Division is largely indebted for the different acts of the Legislature in appropriating the money and thus providing the means to not only do honor to the starred General Hartranft with an equestrian

statue at Harrisburg, but to raise monuments as well to commemorate the deeds of every other officer and soldier who drew a sword or carried a gun, and marched and fought under the flag of the Third Division.

Having placed upon record the Division in war and having placed upon record the Division in peace as we gathered for our fraternal reunions, nothing remains but to make record of the dedication of the monuments to the honor of the Division, May 19th, 1909, within sight of the spires of Petersburg, whose siege of ten months had cost a Union loss of 47,000 men.

The dedication of these monuments on these historic fields has been justly recorded as the most dramatically historic event which has occurred south of the Potomac since the surrender of Appomattox.

At a meeting of the Battlefield Commission held in Petersburg, Virginia, on January 6, 1909, the Commission unanimously selected Major Isaac B. Brown, against his insistent protest to be the orator at the unveiling of the monument at Fort Mahone and Major A. C. Huidekoper as Chief Marshal of the Division and parade.

Major Huidekoper, who was not present at the meeting was requested by the Commission to meet with it thereafter, and his invaluable services rendered to the Commission and the Division merit all praise. Major Huidekoper appointed the following staff with orders to report to him on the date set for the dedication:

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#### STAFF.

Office of A. C. Huidekoper.

Meadville, Pa., April 12, 1909.

To the Battlefield Commission.

3rd Division 9th Army Corps.

Major Isaac B. Brown, President,

Milton A. Emhick, Secretary,—

I have the honor to announce the appointments for my staff as follows:

Captain Stanley D. Embick, Washington, D. C., Chief of Staff  
Aid de camps:

200th

John Toomy, Strinestown, Pa.

Lieut. Lewis Felstel, York New Salem, Pa.

Lieut. Fred. A. Hershey, Dillsburg, Pa.

Lieut. W. H. Smyser, 2406 N. Broad St., Phila., Pa.

Peter Gruher, Jr., Bachmanville, Dauphin Co., Pa.

205th

Joseph M. Owens, Lewistown, Pa.

Capt. F. B. McClenahen, Milroy, Pa.

Capt. Thomas B. Read, R. F. D. No. 6, Lancaster, Pa.

Rev. Henry Whitaker, Mount Carmel, Pa.

207th

Capt. M. G. Hale, Shippensburg, Pa.

Jacob Linck, Williamsport, Pa.

Lieut. John H. Miles, Milton, Pa.

Capt. Elmer Backer, Elmira, N. Y.

Capt. J. W. Fredericks, Lock Haven, Pa.

208th

Wm. F. Kyle, Huntingdon, Pa.

W. S. Seabold, Annville.

Lieut. Miles C. Huyette, Buffalo, N. Y.  
 Capt. Jacob F. Hoffman, Herndon, Pa.  
 Capt. William R. Dunn, Elliottsburg, Pa.  
 209th

211th  
 F. H. Barker, Ebensburg, Pa.  
 John A. Morrison, York, Pa.  
 Hon. John O. Sheatz, Harrisburg, Pa.  
 Jeremiah Hollinger, Greencastle, Pa.  
 Capt. W. C. Moore, Harrisburg, Pa.

211th  
 Wm. C. Black, Mercer, Pa.  
 Lieut. Henry Howard, North Clarendon, Pa.  
 Hon. David B. Graham, Denver, Colo.  
 Capt. William Walter, Hillside, Pa.

Volunteer Aid de Camps

Rasselas Wilcox Brown  
 Albert R. Huldekoper  
 Earle C. Huldekoper  
 J. Bayard Embick.

They will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

Respectfully,

A. C. HUIDEKOPER,  
 Marshall.

STANLEY D. EMBICK, U. S. A.,  
 Chief of Staff.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CEREMONIES.

Carlisle, Pa., April 14, 1909.

The following order will be observed at the unveiling at Ft. Steedman and Mahone, subject to change by the Battlefield Commission or the Chief Marshal of the Parade.

MILTON A. EMBICK,  
 (Signed) JAMES W. FREDERICK,  
 HENRY WHITAKER,  
 Committee on Ceremonies.

March to Fort Steadman from Norfolk and Western Railroad on May 19, 1909. at eight a. m.

Called to order by presiding officer George W. Aughenbaugh.

Invocation by Rev. J. B. Shantz.

Unveiling tablet by Miss Mahel Elizabeth Jones, of Boston, Mass., assisted by Dr. Barker.

Oration by Milton A. Embick.

Benediction by Rev. William A. Houck, Chaplain of the 205th.

Music, Tenting on the Old Camp Ground, by Cadet Band of Petersburg.

TAPS.

Entrain of division; proceed to Fort Mahone; disembark at nearest point to Fort Mahone where will be met by Chief Marshal and Staff. President of the United States, Governors of Virginia and Pennsylvania with their staffs and escorts, also of General A. P. Hill Camp, Petersburg Greys, Battalion of Coast Artillery of Fortress Monroe, and Fortress Monroe Military Band and the Cadet Band of Petersburg. Marched to Fort Mahone under orders of Chief Marshal and Staff, and arriving there Chief Marshal will turn over the third division to President Taft and presiding officer.

Invocation by Rev. Dr. Root W. Barnwell, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Petersburg.

Unveiling statue by Mrs. Harold Arthur Gilhert of Williamsport, assisted by Mrs. General William Mahone, Mrs. Arthur C. Huldekoper, Mrs. W. H. Magill, and Mrs. C. G. Flower, Daughter of the Division.

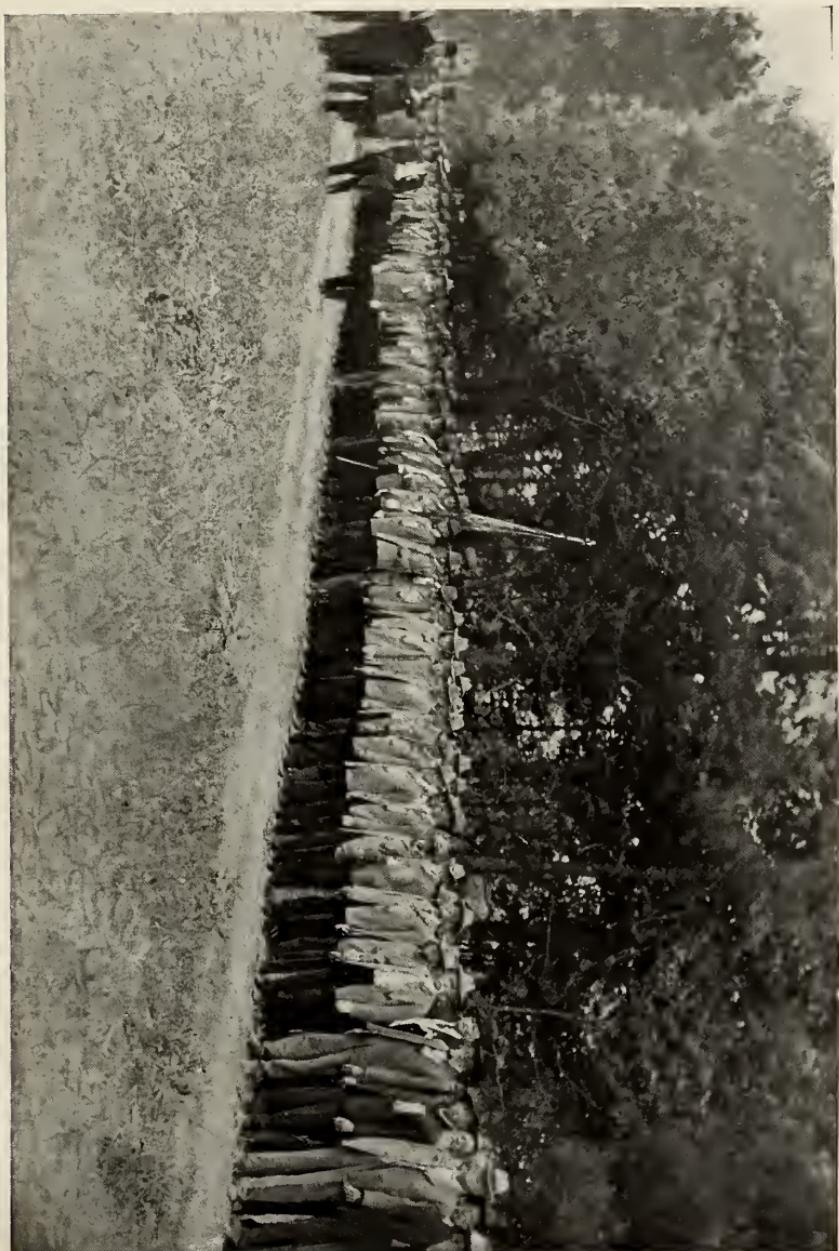
Music by Fortress Monroe Military Band.

Oration by Major Isaac B. Brown, Pres't. 3rd Div. and Battlefield Commission.

Introducing and turning over Division to President William Howard Taft by Chief Marshal Major A. C. Huldekoper.

Address by President William Howard Taft.

Music, Cadet Band.



General A. P. Hill Camp at Fort Rice, as escort to Third Division.



Turning over the monument to Governor Claude Swanson of Virginia by Governor Edwin S. Stuart of Pennsylvania.

Music by Fortress Monroe Military Band.

Governor Swanson's address of acceptance.

Benediction by Rev. Plannett, Chaplain of the 211th.

TAPS by bugler from military band, repeated three times from Fort Mahone and echoed by cadet band from Fort Sedgwick.

Formation for Civic Parade.

The date of May 19, 1909, having been selected by the Commission for the dedication of their monuments and orders for transportation having been sent several weeks in advance, the members of the Third Division gathered at Harrisburg and there entrained for Petersburg on the afternoon and evening of May eighteenth. The survivors present included not only those from Pennsylvania, but those from far western States. They reached Petersburg in the early morning of the nineteenth, where a breakfast awaited them which had been prepared by orders from the chief marshal.

The Division was then formed and marched through the densely crowded streets of Petersburg under the following orders:

The Third Division is greatly indebted to the Norfolk and Western R. R., for the excellent train service and other courtesies extended at the time of the dedication.

To the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Harrisburg, Pa.

The general instruction for the management of the men under your command at Petersburg, Va., on May 19th will be (subject to further orders) as follows:

On arrival at Petersburg the men will secure their breakfasts as promptly as possible. You will assemble them by companies at the Norfolk & Western station not later than 8.00 A. M. The column will enter the cars in the following order:

FIRST: The Band.

SECOND: The Petersburg Grays.

THIRD: A. P. Hill Camp C. V.

FOURTH: The regiments comprising the 3rd Division, arranged as follows: (1st) 200th Regt., (2nd) 209th Regt., (3rd) 208th Regt., (4th) 207th Regt., (5th) 205th Regt., and (6th) 211th Regt.

When the men disembark at Fort Stedman, they will keep their company organizations, and form in column of twos. When advanced far enough to secure suitable grounds the column will halt, open their ranks, face inward, and salute the President and Governors as they pass through the open ranks. After the President's party has cleared the column, it will close rank and march in column of twos to Fort Steadman. After the ceremonies the men will march to the cars and enter them in the following order:

FIRST: The Band.

SECOND: The Petersburg Grays.

THIRD: A. P. Hill Camp C. V.

FOURTH: The regiments comprising the 3rd Division, arranged as follows: (1st) 207th Regt., (2nd) 205th Regt., (3rd) 211th Regt., (4th) 208th Regt., (5th) 209th Regt., and (6th) 200th Regt.

At the landing at Fort Meikle the men will form by twos in company and regimental organization until halted, then open ranks, face inward and salute the President, Governors, as they pass through the lines in their carriages. After the President has passed the ranks will be closed and march forward in column of fours until the men along the Jerusalem plank road to a point beyond the monument of the 48th Pennsylvania Regiment (which they will salute as they pass) when the column will wheel to the left and in column of regiments march to their own monument, where they will form front of the Presidential stand in close column of regiments placed as follows:

Marshall and staff.

The regiments comprising the 3rd Division, arranged as follows: (1st) 207th Regt., (2nd) 205th Regt., (3rd) 211th Regt., (4th) 208th Regt., (5th) 209th Regt., and (6th) 200th Regt.

A. P. Hill Camp C. V.  
Petersburg Grays.

And the Band on the side of the column.

After the unveiling ceremonies, the men will be marched to near Fort Sedgwick, where they can purchase sandwiches and coffee, and will break ranks, and look over the fighting ground until 4.00 P. M., when they will be assembled, march to cars, and return to Petersburg where they will be disbanded.

A. C. HUIDEKOPER,  
Chief Marshall.

STANLEY D. EMBICK, Capt., U. S. A.,  
Chief of Staff.

Escorted by General A. P. Hill Camp, Confederate Veterans and the Sons of Veterans of the Camp, by hundreds of gray clad veterans from all over the State of Virginia and many from North Carolina, the cadet band of Petersburg, and other bands and drum corps, the members of the Division marched to the depot of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, where they took the trains awaiting them and disembarked near what was once the Confederate line and marched to Fort Stedman, for the dedication there. Comrade George W. Aughenbaugh of the 200th, who had been chosen to preside, called the assembly to order and introduced Rev. J. B. Shontz, of the 205th, who delivered the following invocation:

"O Lord, God, Thou in whose hands are the issues of life and death, we are gathered here under a deep sense of Thy goodness, greatness, wisdom and mercy. We stand before Thee with uncovered heads, on the spot made memorable by the great deeds of those who here fought for the perpetuity of this great nation. Here, amidst shot and shell, our comrades faced death, and we now are about to unveil a monument to their memory. This monument may crumble and decay, but their deeds will never die or be forgotten.

"O God, grant that the lives of the old veterans may be spared for many years, that they may show to the world the love of country and valor that called them forth from their homes to the defense of the best nation that ever the sun shone upon.

"Regard, we beseech Thee, those who were wounded and are bearing heavy burdens in the struggles of life; bless them with their families, and cause them to rejoice in Thee.

"And now, dear Lord, bless the remaining soldiers of the North and the South, and, as we here mingle in fraternal union, may all past feelings of sectional strife be entirely forgotten and blotted out. Bind us all together in the bonds of true fellowship, that we may henceforth stand for the defense and glory of one nation, one flag and one God.

"For the sake of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen."

After music by the cadet band of Petersburg, the monument was unveiled by Miss Mabel Jones of Boston, whose grandfather, Lt. Hugh Jones, was the first officer to fall mortally wounded at the recapture



Miss Mabel Elizabeth Jones, of Boston, Massachusetts, who unveiled the monument at Fort Stedman, May 19, 1909.





Milton A. Embick, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, who delivered the oration at Fort Stedman, May 19, 1909.



of Fort Stedman. She was escorted to the platform by Dr. Olin Barker, of Johnstown. The presiding officer then introduced Milton A. Embick, who delivered the following oration:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen and Comrades of both Armies:

The bronze tablet which has just been so fittingly unveiled by the granddaughter of that gallant officer, Lieutenant Hugh Jones, who was the first officer to fall in the recapture of these works bears this inscription, and was written by Isaac B. Brown a private of Co. F, 211th Regiment, and is as follows: "In the last grand offensive movement of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, Fort Stedman with adjacent works was captured at 4:30 A. M., March 25th, 1865, by a well selected body of Confederates under the command of General Jno. B. Gordon. An advance was made with great determination over the broken Union lines, then through the ravine and up the rising grounds to the eastward, for the purpose of cutting the United States military railroad, and thus making successful the Confederate plan of severing the Army of the Potomac and destroying its base of supplies at City Point. This movement was checked and the direct assault in the recapture of these embattlements was made by the Third Division, 9th Corps, Army of the Potomac, in whose memory this tablet is erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

The ceremonies here to-day however, are but an incident of the great event of the day, which will take place at noon, south of this spot beyond the historic Jerusalem Plank Road. And yet before the Battlefield Commission visited these grounds, they had unanimously decided that here was the spot to place our monument; and had it not been for the inaccessibility of this place to the general public, the magnificent monument and statue which now stand on the site of Fort Mahone would have stood in the center of the fort where as has been said the last great struggle and heroic offensive movement was made by the Army of Northern Virginia.

It is to recall some of the incidents of those days of over 44 years ago that I am here to-day. And to those who have come upon the stage of action since that date, and have but a faint conception of what war meant along these lines in 1864 and '65, let me state, that here two armies faced one another for ten long, weary months; their battle lines extending from north of Richmond, down across the James River, across the Appomattox, on down for miles south, forming a battleline of almost 45 miles.

In the trenches on the defensive line, stood the Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by that peerless leader and magnificent general, Robert E. Lee.

Ready to strike at all times and pitted against them was the Army of the Potomac, commanded by that silent but invincible General U. S. Grant.

Never before in the history of the ages; and never again in the centuries to come, will two such armies face one another, unless, which God forbid, American soldiers face American soldiers.

Here, along these lines, where forts almost touched one another and every fort bristled with cannon, no man's life was safe for an instant of time, and to stand erect for a moment was to court the bullet that sang unceasingly the requiem of death, in this deadly zone of fire.

Not a day, not an hour, scarcely a minute went by that the blood of some one did not redden the sands of these plains. In rear of the Union lines where graveyards were laid out upon every sunny hillside and in every shade of the wood, new tenants were added day by day; while from the Confederate lines the starred general and the private in the ranks were carried side by side to old historic Blandford Cemetery where, waiting the judgment day, sleep thousands of the heroes of the Southland.

These, with the heroes of the North who fell have, we trust, entered that White City of eternal peace and far away in that peace reigning land have waked to sweeter music than ever bugles played at dawn.

But, something had to be done to break the tightening hold of Grant upon the beleagured City of Petersburg, and General Lee summoned General Gordon to take that heroic step.

But faintly recorded is the history of this momentous event, because of the rapid occurring events that followed it, day by day to Appomattox.

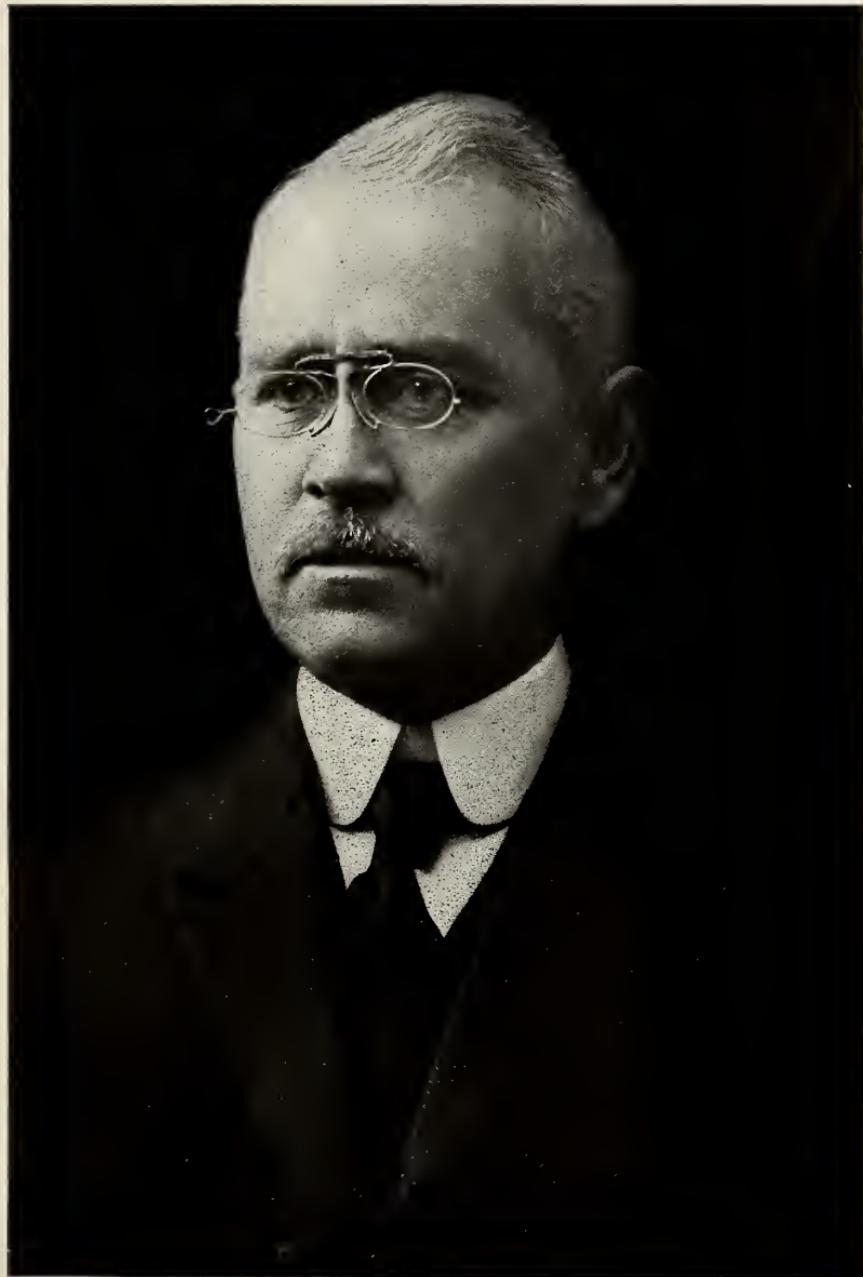
But Gordon came with his trained men, the flower of the Army of Northern Virginia, and seizing this fort an hour or more before daylight, swept the line from its moorings for three fourth of a mile, and then pushed on to cut the Army of the Potomac in two; to sweep down its left flank, to destroy its base at City Point; to put the surrender at Appomattox back to 1866 instead of 1865.

Lying on the second line of battle and peacefully sleeping in their tents on that morning of the 25th of March was the Third Division of the 9th Army Corps. They had seen hard service in the Army of the James. They had been swung down to the left in midwinter to Hatcher's Run, and again to aid the 5th Corps during their Weldon raids; but now in their camps they were beyond the reach of shot and shell, although their incessant roar was constantly in their ears. Smokeless powder and far-reaching guns were unknown during the Civil War.

The 200th Regiment was stationed near the Dunn House Battery, less than a mile in your rear; the 209th Regiment about the same distance, not far from Meade's Station, on the Military Railroad; the 208th near the Avery House, (Division Headquarters). These troops constituted the first brigade of the Third Division.

The 205th, 207th and 211th Regiments formed the second brigade and lay between Forts Alexander Hays and Howard, the 211th being posted near Fort Prescott.

It was these troops, with only a camp guard, that were quietly sleeping on the night of March 24th, 1865, and it was these troops that waked by the nearer and heavier firing and the sound of the long roll in their camps before dawn of that grey March morning, sprang to their arms



Hon. Seward W. Jones, of Boston, Massachusetts, architect and builder of the monuments at Forts Stedman and Mahone.





Just before the unveiling at Fort Stedman, May 19, 1909.



and formed ranks and regiments while the thud of bullets striking upon their tent covers, told them that the battle was on. In the formation of those regiments in line of battle by their Commander, General John F. Hartranft, who went into that battle with the single star of a brigadier and emerged from it with the double star of a major-general, the final and magnificent charge of those regiments, witnessed by the immortal Lincoln and General Grant whose guest he had been the night before at City Point and who now stood with him on the hill in the rear, watching the surging mass below as they leaped like hounds in leash leaving their dead and dying to be cared for later on; the 211th from its far off camp double quick-coming five miles, and who now tired and worn at 7:30, yet lifted themselves with cadenced step as they were marched slowly over the hill to be sacrificed, if need be so that the others should win the charge.

Below them in a semi-circle of a mile and a half the five regiments, waiting for the signal which came with the 211th of the reestablishment of our lines and our starry banners on the ramparts of these forts.

All this my Comrades, comes vividly back to us to-day though nearly fifty years have joined the centuries of the past since then.

We meet, my Comrades, with decimated ranks on grounds that seem strangely unfamiliar. We meet with feelings most fraternal to those whose gallantry in the Civil War brought forth upon our side and in our ranks that heroism which is the proud boast of the American soldier.

For us, my Comrades, whether we wore the Gray or wore the Blue, the "Dress Parade" is over. Soon will come the "Evening Gun," and then "Tattoo" and then the sweet notes of "Taps" will sound for us all.

But to-day, my Comrades—

"While years have swiftly passed away,  
In Times unceasing flight,  
Yet the pulse is quickened and the brain  
With recollections teems.  
Of sad and tenderest memories.  
Like some forgotten dreams.

Once more we see the busy camps,  
With white tents far and near.  
Long vanished scenes, familiar sounds,  
Again greet eye and ear.

We hear the squadron's measured tramp,  
We see the bayonet's glare—  
The music of the fife and drum  
Comes floating on the air.

The sentry's heat, the picket post,  
The skirmishers we see  
The battle line, the thrilling charge—  
Hear cheers of victory.

But all is calm and peaceful now  
On these historic lines.  
And sadly blows the southern wind,  
Sweet scented with the pines.

Chanting a solemn requiem,  
 O'er slumbers most profound  
 Of those who fell and sweetly sleep  
 In consecrated ground."

After the playing of the Star Spangled Banner the benediction was pronounced by Rev. W. A. Houck, Chaplain of the 205th Regiment, and also of the Division.

"O Thou Father of all mercies and God of all truth: We thank Thee, we praise Thee that the American people hold in sacred memory their countrymen who fought and fell in our Civil War. We thank Thee that so many survive the shock of battle, and live to enjoy the inheritance which was bought and preserved by so many precious lives. May they remain many years with their wives and children under Thy sheltering wing. May the Union of States, cemented by the blood of patriots, hold together on their mission of freedom and righteousness until the Master of all good workmen shall put them to work anew, and may the blessings of God, which giveth riches of grace in Jesus Christ abide with all forever. Amen."

Orders were read from the Chief Marshal as to the formation of the Regiments and as to their march on the parade and grounds at Fort Mahone. The Division then entrained and was taken to Fort Meikle where it detrained and formed in line.

Here they were met by the President of the United States and his party, the President being personally escorted from this point to Fort Mahone by the sheriff and one hundred mounted men from Prince George Co. Va., who acted as his escort until the monument was reached, the Governors of Pennsylvania and Virginia, and their respective staffs, a battalion of Coast Artillery and military band from Fort Monroe. Orders were given to open column and the carriages of the President and his party, the Governors and their staffs, the members of the Battlefield Commission and the visiting guests passed through.

Closing columns, the parade moved forward passing close by the lines occupied during the year of 1864-'65. Here still stood the great forts that once bristled with murderous cannon, but within their ramparts great trees now spread their branches toward Heaven, their roots being fed by the waters which stood in the moats around the forts.

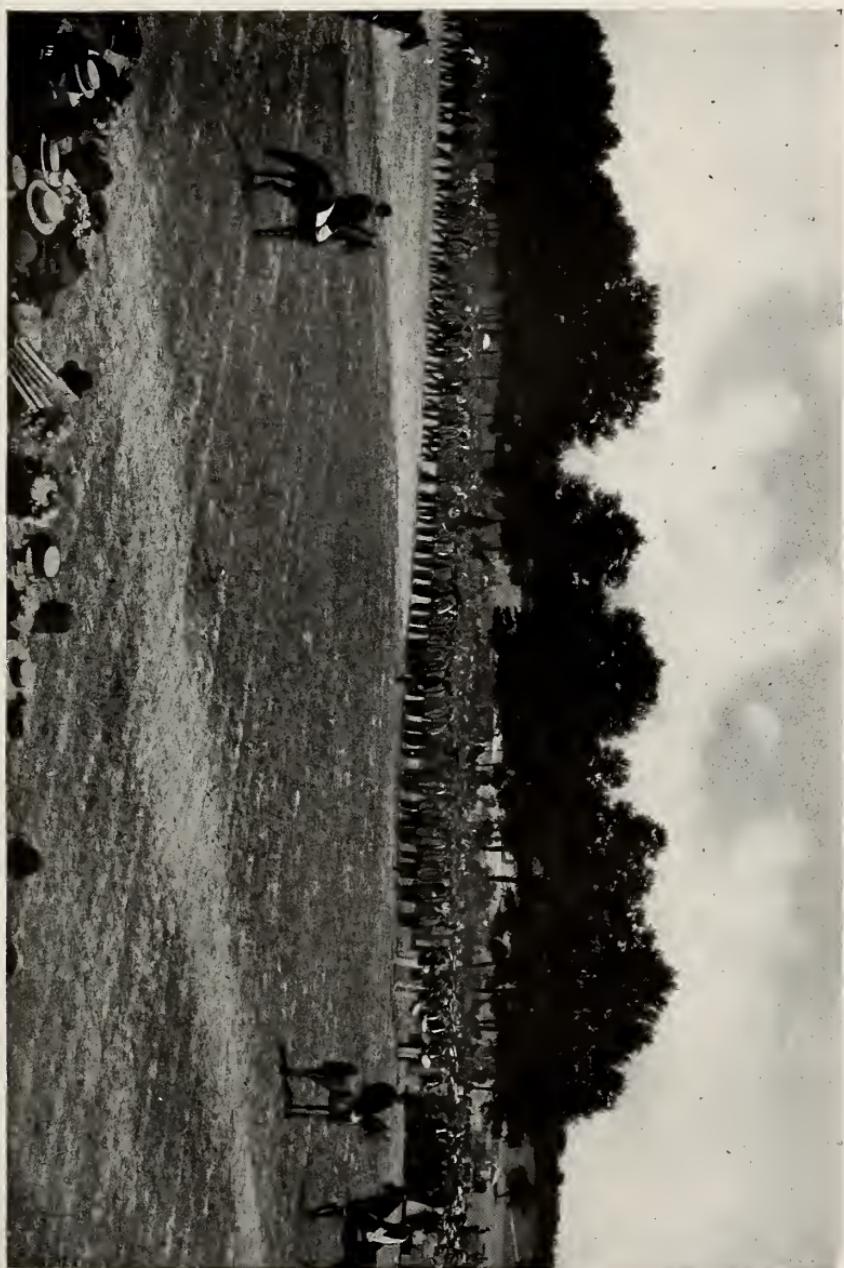
Crossing the historic Jerusalem Plank Road the Division, debouched from the plain where once to have stood for a moment would have been courting instant death, and marched to a point in front of the Presidential platform, where it was presented by Major A. C. Huidekoper, Chief Marshal, to the President and to the presiding officer, Colonel R. H. I. Goddard, as follows:

"Sirs, I have the honor to report that the Third Division of the Ninth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, is in place before you and awaits your orders."



Colonel R. H. I. Goddard, of Providence, Rhode Island,  
Presiding Officer at the unveiling of the monument  
at Fort Mahone, May 19, 1909.





The Division in line at Fort Rice after detraining waiting for President Taft to pass just before going to Fort Mahone to dedicate the monument, May 19, 1909.



The scene presented was one of singular and deep significance. Here, before the President of the United States, his military aide, Major Archibald Butt, a little later to be one of the heroes of the Titanic, the French Ambassador, the Governors of Pennsylvania and Virginia and their staffs, with two ex-Governors of the latter Commonwealth, presidents of universities and colleges, United States Senators and members of Congress, Admiral Sigsbee, and many others, there mingled thousands of the Blue and the Gray,—all gathered in fraternal good will to do honor to a Federal Division, and to dedicate to its valor a magnificent monument on what had been once the site of a Confederate fort.

The program announced by the Committee on Ceremonies was then carried out as follows:

Col. R. H. I. Goddard, master of ceremonies, received the report of Major A. C. Huidekoper that the parade was formed, and immediately began his speech:

“I esteem it an honor far beyond my deserts to be asked to preside at this gathering of the Survivors of the old Hartranft division of the Ninth Army Corps. It is not only an honor. It is a high privilege. My active and personal association with this division is the proudest memory of my life. It began on the 25th of March, 1865, when that gallant command stormed and retook Fort Stedman, and thus re-established the lines as they existed before General Gordon and his brave men assaulted and captured that position.

“A week later, on the spot where we now stand, I was again with those tried Pennsylvania veterans, who after a desperate resistance became masters of this fort, and opened the way through Petersburg to Appomattox.

“For nearly a fortnight I was in close and direct contact with you. It was a brief period, but what events of surpassing moment were crowded into that short space of time.

“It was long enough to command my unbounded admiration for the bearing and conduct of this division, and to fill my heart with an undying sentiment not only of admiration, but of genuine affection, a sentiment which, on so many occasions, has been fostered by your kindness, so noticeably shown in my selection to conduct the exercises of this afternoon.

“As I gaze upon the scene before me, how many memories of that eventful fortnight, and of the participants in the glorious deeds then accomplished come surging into my mind.

“Before I could even mention the names of all the actors conspicuously valiant during that fortnight of such momentous consequences to the Republic, yonder sun would set, and the day would be too short to attempt to rehearse and do justice to their heroic deeds.

“Among the many, my old friend, and your old friend, as well as com-

mander John Frederick Hartranft, looms up before my eyes. Can any one who ever knew him forget his splendid personality and the charm of his character?

"He was a noble American, a grand soldier, whose good fortune it was to lead men worthy of their commander. I can see again, at this instant, those dark luminous eyes as they serenely and confidently surveyed the scene of action on that memorable day.

"And then there was my own chief, Major General John Grubb Parke. I loved him as a brother in life, and I shall always tenderly cherish his memory.

"He was a modest and unassuming Christian gentleman, a fearless and skillful general, a stainless patriot, loving and lovable—one who possessed the deep affection not alone of his staff officers, but of all who served with him.

"Another grand and rugged figure is before my eyes, and in my heart, as I recall those days.

"Within an hour after the battle of Fort Stedman, Abraham Lincoln rode to the headquarters of General Parke, clasped both his hands and warmly thanked him for what he had accomplished in the early morning hours of that day.

"On April 3d, the day following the assault on the fort, where we are now peacefully assembled, as we passed through Petersburg, we again saw Abraham Lincoln standing under a magnolia tree watching us file by. The shadow of the cruel fate then impending had not yet reached him. A smile was on his kindly face, for he felt that war would soon cease, and peace be restored to a distracted people.

"Could his prophetic vision have pierced the future and could he have seen the salvation which has come to both sides in that Titanic conflict, he would gladly have sung the song of Simeon, "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace."

"If those radiant and knightly souls could return to earth, the scene before us would prove that their labors had not been in vain.

"They would see men who had fought desperately and heroically against them, for a cause they believed right and just—members of an organization bearing the name of that dauntless leader, General Ambrose Powell Hill, who died here in the fulfillment of duty and honor, as revealed to him—they would behold these men uniting with us, under the old flag, to commemorate the deeds of those whom they once faced as foes.

"This is a spectacle for which we may well thank God. May it serve to join still more closely the hearts and hands of the sons of a common country. May it serve to make us more God-fearing and more truly patriotic citizens of that country, for in the virtues of its children, shall our nation be established and perpetuated as "a praise in the earth."

"Then may we hope that our petitions which ascend to heaven will be heard and granted.



Mrs. Harold Arthur Gilbert, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania,  
who unveiled the Third Division monument, at  
Fort Mahone, May, 1909.



"Let the powers by Thee ordained  
Be in righteousness maintained;  
In the people's hearts increase  
Love of piety and peace;  
Thus united we shall stand  
One wide, free and happy land."

At the conclusion of Col. Goddard's remarks, he gave the signal for the unveiling. The monument was then unveiled by Mrs. Harold Arthur Gilbert, of Williamsport, Pa., daughter of Major Isaac B. Brown, assisted by Mrs. Wm. Mahone, of Petersburg, Va., Mrs. A. C. Huidekopper, of Meadville, Pa., Mrs. Wm. McGill, of Petersburg, Va., and Mrs. Clarence Guiles Flower, daughter of the Division, of Harrisburg, Pa.

Music by Fortress Monroe Military Band. Col. Goddard then introduced the Rev. R. W. Barnwell, D. D., rector of St. Paul's Church, who delivered the invocation.

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#### INVOCATION. .

**A**LMIGHTY and most merciful God, known in former days as the God of battles and Lord of Hosts, but now unto us as the God of reconciliation and of peace, we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, the one true everlasting Father, here on the ancient battlefield, here as we stand in the ranks of a reunited brotherhood. And we pray Thee that as Thou didst grant in the former days of strife the high virtues of courage and endurance, so Thou wilt grant to us in the present day of peace, the supreme grace of love and fellowship.

"We praise Thee, O God, for our great country, which in its every line and feature is a sign and pledge of Thy Providence, Thy bounty, Thy favor and mercy. We pray Thee make us worthy of it.

"We thank Thee, O God, that Thy Providence has ordered it that the President of this land, though exalted by his responsibilities as the chief servant of the people, shall yet have his place of happiness among them, even as one of themselves; and that Thou hast so endowed the present holder of the office with large heart, stable mind and gentle disposition, that sectionalism and part spirit must flee away and the desires of the whole people be turned to the blessed work of upholding him as he labors to make our common country both prosperous and magnanimous. Bless him in his high ideals and stalwart character.

"We recognize, O Heavenly Ruler, that under thy ordering the great States of Pennsylvania and Virginia have been each in its own section the most conservative of forces, conscious of strength, lovers of peace, cherish the teachings of Franklin and Washington. Yet soldiers of Virginia have died on the slopes of Gettysburg, and soldiers of Pennsylvania have crimsoned these Virginia fields with their blood. Forgive, O Lord, our past enmities. Make us for all time both friends and brothers. Let every city of our gathering be a City of Brotherly Love. Unite our Governors and our people in the bonds of lasting good will.

"Bless, O Lord God, who ever lovest steadfast hearts, this old city of enduring courage. Thou canst see to-day even as when it happened how all pains and terrors of death were as naught before the resolution of duty, hallowed by love of hearthstone and altar. Keep alive the soul and spirit of that devotion. Transmit to her children the heart-texture that endured the fire of the days when Petersburg passed through her furnace of anguish.

"And as for these soldiers of both armies who once under their bullet-torn banners grappled and bled, but now unite around this majestic memorial of the brave Pennsylvanians who gave their blood for their cause and Government—for them we raise our beseeching prayers for grace, mercy and blessing. None that have known or read of the days of bugle call, the trumpet sounding for the charge, of regiments in the valley of Death, marching with the step of the parade, of ringing cheers out of pools of blood, of smiles as the light of life forever fades, can fail to feel, O God, the wonders of the soul that Thou hast made—the soul of a soldier aglow with patriotic devotion. Our common-place hearts know but little of the glory that shone in theirs. Thou didst cover the heads of these old men in the day of battle that the eyes of their sons might look upon them and learn of them and even as we reverence their surpassing courage, we pray for the power to grow to their stature. Yea, and even as Thou didst keep them then, we pray that Thou wilt comfort them now. Stint not the peace of their declining days. Let them not find their sons ungrateful. Let not our Commonwealths forget them when in need. Let days bring honors and let nights bring rest. Let their dreams be of home and welcome, and of re-united hearts.

"And, finally, O Christ, Thou Son of God, who goest before our hosts in the terrible battle of life, can it not be that Thou wilt give to each and all the courage and desire to serve the Heavenly country of which Thou art King, as each one sees his duty. We surely know that Thou art right. Grant then the deepest prayer in our hearts to-day—that not only in this world, but in the world to come we may be united in the glorious brotherhood of man."

"All this we ask in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."

The presiding officer then introduced Major Isaac B. Brown, of Corry, Pa., president of the Third Division and president of Petersburg Battle-field Commission, as the orator of the day.

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#### MAJOR BROWN'S ADDRESS.

**M**AJOR ISAAC B. BROWN, President of the Pennsylvania Battle-field Commission, then said:

"The assemblage of these veterans of the Blue and Gray, with this great concourse of people, on these renowned fields, is evidence that for this day, at least, we are looking backward.



Major Isaac B. Brown, of Corry, Pennsylvania, who delivered the oration at Fort Mahone, May 19, 1909.



Scene after the unveiling, while Major Brown is delivering the oration at Fort Mahone, May 19, 1909.





Hear "near Petersburg," a familiar phrase of old war time days, upon the sacred soil of old Virginia, made forever hallowed in the unprecedented clash of arms and the shedding of American blood, do two great Commonwealths extend fraternal greetings.

"Virginia and Pennsylvania, rich and eminent in colonial history, touching elbows in the great struggle and crusade for American independence—fighting side by side from Bunker's Hill to Yorktown—potent in molding, establishing and directing the new-born Republic—shoulder to shoulder in Indian wars, the second war for independence, and the war with Mexico—sadly separating in the war between the States—but now, in the Providence of Almighty God, under these heaven-blessed Southern skies, may it be said:

"Their fortunes now in one channel at last,  
As the torrents that rush from the mountains of snow  
Roll, mingled in peace through the valleys below."

"Looking backward, not in bitterness, not in resentment, but in pathos and veneration—in tears for the sacrifices of their chivalric sons and in veneration and pride for their limitless valor.

"Yes, reverently do we obey the command, to look backward when it is given in the name of American blood and American bravery, but in all else our thoughts are of the future; our enterprises, our energies, our ambitions, our fondest hopes, are in the promising future, wherein we look for the advancement, the uplifting and the greater instrumentality for good of this reunited American republic.

"On these immortal fields, where Americans met Americans, we behold in every direction the evidences of conflict, in these wonderful lines of fortifications, still standing so formidable, even though Nature with her leveling processes, for nearly half a century, has been silently and sternly marching on, and weaving her mantle of forgetfulness.

"True, there are no longer threatening cannon and bristling bayonets along these sometime belligerent lines, and the almost impenetrable abattis and Chevaux-de-frise have disappeared; while the mighty hosts of fire-tried valor—those legions whose banners were bullet-riddled—those armies of Blue and Gray—the greatest, the most invincible that ever marshalled under the banners of Christian civilization—no longer develop their lines of battle or appear in picturesque array; they are scattered—they have melted away, never again to assemble at tap of drum or blast of heroic bugle.

"There is pathos in the sighing of the pines, grown to great dimensions on the time-worn fortifications, for eloquently and sweetly do they sound a requiem for those whose blood crimsoned the soil on which they grew.

"The feathered tribes flutter through their branches, carol their songs, build their nests, and rear their young, as joyfully as though peace had here dwelt in these habitations, unmolested for a thousand years.

"Thus does Nature, sublimely and sweetly, in her rhythm of music and in her processes, furnish an example of "peace on earth, good will towards men," worthy of our emulation, and in this almost Divine spirit are here

met, in their old age, these survivors of the great Confederate and Union armies, and in this meeting bless our country and our posterity in commemorating the valor of the American soldier.

"The artillery of Charleston's harbor may not have echoed around the world, as was said of that shot that was fired by the embattled farmers at Concord's Bridge, yet its deafening thunders startled Americans everywhere, as the reverberations were augmented and accentuated by the more tumultuous sounds of war, into which they were merged as the stupendous conflict swept on, and on through the more than three years of war from Sumpter to the Siege of Petersburg.

"Could there be unfolded in a film that would exhibit the scene of conflict prior to the "Crossing of the James," exploits of the valor of the American soldier would be reproduced that added imperishable honor and brilliancy to American arms, and to this, still greater brilliancy was given in the conflict that was so sternly waged on these fields of carnage in the siege of Petersburg.

#### THE SIEGE OF PETERSBURG.

"Pen can never portray, songs of poets or eloquence of sages describe the campaigns between the Army of the Potomac and Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in the struggle for supremacy round the beleaguered city of Petersburg.

"Here was the never ceasing clash of arms, the whirlwind of impetuous charges—the seething maelstrom of conflict, the saliences, the vortex of contending forces—days pregnant with momentous events, and in the shedding of blood.

"It was a fierce, prolonged, unprecedented, most sanguinary siege, in which the valor of men was put to its most crucial test—a struggle covering ten seemingly endless months—a death grapple—a test for supremacy, wherein human lives seemed but atoms of dust, and scarcely considered in the plans of campaigns.

#### THE ADVENT OF THE THIRD DIVISION.

"Into such a siege, in the fall of 1864, appeared the banners of six Pennsylvania regiments, whose Survivors are now gathered around this monument, erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

"The rank and file were composed of young men and boys who were ready for any duty that the exigencies of war demanded.

"Their bright banners were first unfurled under Southern skies, in the presence of the Confederates, along Bermuda's beleaguered lines, when they suffered the death casualties of war on the first day of their arrival at the front, and soon thereafter, were engaged in battle with Pickett's Old Division of Confederates, made forever famous in its renowned charge on Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg.

"It was a momentous day and one prolific with apprehension,—When these Pennsylvanians came across the Appomattox, and stacked arms amidst the



Charge of the Third Division, Ninth Army Corps, on Fort Mahone, April 2, 1865.



scenes of conflict there waging and became the Third Division of the Ninth Corps of the Army of the Potomac, to the command of which, Brigadier General, John Frederick Hartranft was assigned, whose brilliancy as a soldier gave assurance and dispelled doubts and apprehensions.

“During its term of service in the siege of Petersburg, it was generally the reserved division of the corps, and in the fortunes of war, it was sent rapidly from place to place as necessity required and thus rendered some service in nearly all the territory embraced within the great siege.

“It went down this Jerusalem Plank Road in the storms of the Weldon Raid,—it was in the campaign of Hatcher’s Run,—midst its snows and penetrating storms.

“It pierced the darkness of Stedman’s carnage, to check, and to repulse the last grand offensive movement of Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia.

“Here, it fought in the presence of the immortal Abraham Lincoln. Here it met the flower of the Confederate army as it came surging through the broken embattlements of Fort Stedman, and like a resistless avalanche, passed on to sever the Army of the Potomac in twain. Here, it won fame, and its conduct in the grand picturesque array in the final assault for the recapture of Stedman, was most highly commended by the great military Chieftain.

#### THE ASSAULT ON FORT MAHONE.

“Following the carnage of Stedman, the division was in a few days in battle array to lead in the assault on this position, the beginning of the last grand offensive movement of the Army of the Potomac.

“The world may have wondered and applauded the wild heroic charge at Cemetery Ridge, the bravery in the struggle at the “Round Tops”—admiration may be bestowed on those who were in the hopeless struggle at Marye’s Heights or on the gallantry exhibited at Missionary Ridge, and Lookout Mountain; but scarcely in any war, at any time, were troops ever sent against such obstructions and such devastating instrumentalities of war as existed between Fort Sedgewick, over there under those pines, and Fort Mahone, the site of this monument.

“When the officers and men of this division, after standing in line for two nights, in that suspense which is so trying to the most fearless,—wound their way through the labyrinth of fortifications of murderous Fort Hell, and in front of which, formed in columns of regiments, the assaulting columns,—the feeling was universal that “it was but to do and to die.”

“Except for the flash of artillery discharges, the night was as black and dreary as Egyptian darkness.

“In the waiting for the signal to advance, moments seemed days in duration.

“Along this crest, stretched the ponderous fortifications, behind which were sheltered and waiting, the ever vigilant and fighting Confederates.

"The heavens seemed filled with rising and falling meteors, while the thunders of the great engines of war, shook the earth so that at times it seemed to have left its orbit.

"Then the harsh voiced thunders of these instruments of war were hushed and the darkened skies were pierced by a rocket as a signal to advance.

"Stout hearts sometimes quail under such extreme emergencies.

"Would these Pennsylvanians go forward and be hurled back in the devastating tempest of war's most fearful havoc as had occurred to other troops?

"Theirs was not to reason why," so onward they came across that field, into the lurid flash of battle.

"In a few moments the Confederate picket line was passed, the impenetrable abattis was swept aside; strong hands seized and tore away the formidable obstacles; and then with a resistless power, the bolts and the bars of the Chevaux-de-frise were broken; then an onward rush, a plunge through the moat, a surmounting of the fortifications, and at the first blush of morning light, the battle flags of these six Pennsylvania regiments floated from the fortifications, extending from Fort Mahone to the north of the Jerusalem Plank road.

"Here the battle did not cease in its fury and from early morn until long after the sun disappeared from this bloody scene, did the conflict continue—the Confederates trying to regain what had been lost, and the Pennsylvanians to hold what they had gained.

"This was a memorable assault and characterized for the impetuosity of the assailants and in the invincible courage and resistance of the besieged.

"On the following morning, the soldiers of the division, with largely depleted ranks, passed through the streets of the beleagured, greatly bombarded and demolished city of Petersburg, whose church spires through the long months of the siege had been in view of the Union lines, and whose chimes of bells, were so distinctly heard in those anthems of praise, the reverberations of which, swept across the lines of contending armies—heard, loved and cherished at that time, and fondly remembered now, though their admonitions for peaceful solutions were then turned aside, and the great struggle between the States was pressed on to its final scenes at Appomattox, which followed so soon after the battle, here fought.

"I congratulate you, soldiers of the Third Division, that you have lived to see this day and meet with each other again on this sacred spot. You will recall your comrades who here died for the flag and their country, and while you will rejoice in your assembling and meeting of those not before seen since the war, yet the mingling of joy and sadness is inevitable.

"Other troops rendered their country, greater and longer service, only because, in the fortunes of war, greater or more extended opportunities were offered.

"Yours is a creditable record and you have added imperishable honor to the Keystone State, whose authorities, appreciating your services, have erected this monument to tell the story through coming generations of your gallantry in the great Civil War. Profoundly grateful are you, that you are so honored, and that this great recognition of your services is made in the presence of the Chief Executive of these United States.

#### "CAMP NEAR PETERSBURG" AND CONFEDERATE BRAVERY.

"What shall be said of those who occupied these intrenchments, on this side of the line of the two great contending armies?

"How meaningless would this obelisk of granite and this statue of bronze be had the men who fought here not been among the bravest of the brave?

"In thousands of Northern homes, packed away in the attic, may be found to-day, packages of soldiers letters, written from these fields that surround the city of Petersburg, and if we unfold these time-worn pages, we shall find the caption reads,—"Camp, near Petersburg, Virginia." Every one of these letters is a tribute to the valor, the resisting power, and the indomitable courage of the men, who so long held at bay, the Great Army of the Potomac.

"No classic eulogy,—no anthem of praise,—no ecomium of glory,—no Athenian panegyric for heroism on the fields of Marathon, could too strongly accentuate the valor of the Confederate soldier, who here fought for his convictions and stood in decimated ranks of his own colors, until the last gun was fired at Appomattox.

"Every measure of commendation which the soldiers of the Confederacy merit is most generously bestowed by the veterans in blue, for in this Confederate valor, there is added and reflected imperishable glory to the boys of this Pennsylvania Division, who here pierced the formidable embattlements, upon which they planted their flags on that Sunday morning,—the second of April, 1865.

"Oh! my countrymen,—it was American versus American and but for the disparity of numbers and resources who shall say when Appomattox would have come?

"Therefore, this monument is a tribute to the American Soldier, no matter whether it in particular names the Third Division Ninth Corps, or Grimes' Division of Gordon's Corps, that defended these lines in the memorable assault?

"Surely the ground whereon you stand is most hallowed, and while the nation shall live, and deeds of heroism and devotion be venerated, the territory within the siege of Petersburg, will be sacred to every true American.

"Lamentable as was the fraternal strife here enacted,—with all its cruelties and malignancies, incident to Civil War, yet thanks be to Almighty God, all is turning to glory now, all will be an inspiration to the student of American history, and all will contribute to the brilliancy of American arms and the perpetuity of the American republic."

**NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK.**

If there be any part of the earth's surface that is unsurpassingly rich in deeds of heroism, worthy of pilgrimages from the civilized peoples of all nations of the earth, it is the territory on which Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac fought from the James and Appomattox rivers on the north, to Hatcher's Run on the south; all this should be converted into a battlefield park, dedicated to lasting peace among all the people of this wonderful land, these United States of America.

This sentiment will be heartily commended by all Union and Confederate survivors, and were it possible to glean tidings from those who died on these fields of glory, or those who have since gone to marshal with them on the shores of Eternity, there could scarcely be found any division of sentiment.

Turning our thoughts to the Dominion of Canada, where on the Plains of Abraham, France and England contended in a conquest for territory, in which Wolfe and Montcalm both died, a joint monument to those French and British commanders has been erected by the peoples of both nations in a spirit of love and veneration.

So may it be here, at some point in this vast battlefield, that the government of the United States and all the States of the American Union may, in a fraternal and loyal spirit, unite in the building of a joint monument to the Confederate and Union soldiers, which so far as possible, shall be commensurate with the great sacrifices and the unsurpassed bravery which characterized the American soldiers in the great siege of Petersburg.

Let it be built in magnitude, grandeur and magnificence, like unto the tower that seemed to stand before "The Old Sergeant" on the fields of Shiloh, while crossing the lines which "separate mortals from immortals, time from eternity, and men from their God," where he beheld "a mighty tower as if builded to the dead. To the heavens of the Heavens, lifted up its mighty head, till the stars and stripes of Heaven all seemed waving from its head."

Build it, while there still survive, veterans of the great civil strife,—for all too soon, tattoo will be sounded, the sunset gun fired, and "taps" be blown on the old heroic bugle, proclaiming the final muster out.

Build it now, that it may be an accentuation and materialization of the policy of the Chief Executive of this God blessed nation in reference to the fraternal relations between the North and the South.

What a galaxy of heroes in bronze could be assembled about its base!

Stonewall Jackson, Winfield Scott Hancock, John Fulton Reynolds, and John B. Gordon, A. P. Hill, and George Gordon Meade, J. E. B. Stuart, and Philip H. Sheridan, William Mahone and John Frederick Hartranft. Then the great ideal chieftan of the South, Robert E. Lee, and the stalwart soldier of the North, Ulysses S. Grant.

What an assemblage of American soldiers and their name is legion!

The establishment of a battlefield park on these renowned and sanguinary





Sincerely yours  
Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 1912 - Wm. H. Taft.

President William H. Taft, who made an address at the unveiling  
of the monument at Fort Mahone, May 19, 1909.

fields, and the erection of such a monument in the spirit manifested here to-day, would be the highest tribute to the valor of the American soldier.

The monument would be a shrine of patriotism,—a temple of American fame,—inspiration to the highest ideals of honor and purity in public affairs,—an incentive to loyalty to the strength of the Union,—a bulwark of strength to the republic,—a guarantee to its perpetuity, and a proclamation to all the nations of the world of the invincibility of American arms, and of the indestructibility of the American nation.

After music by the Cadet Band of Petersburg, the presiding officer, Col. Goddard, paid eloquent tribute to President Taft and introduced him as the next speaker.

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#### PRESIDENT TAFT'S ADDRESS.

PRESIDENT TAFT spoke as follows:

My fellow citizens:

We are met to-day to on the soil of Virginia to dedicate a memorial to the bravery of the sons of Pennsylvania exhibited in a contest to death with the sons of Virginia and the South. We stand here in the centre of the bloodiest and most critical operations of the last year of the Civil War, only a few miles distant from that dramatic scene at Appomattox between Grant and Lee, which marked the great qualities of the heart and soul of each, and which was the real end of the terrific struggle between the two sections. Here in and about Petersburg, the outwork of Richmond, the home of the Confederacy, were carried on those besieging operations begun late in the spring of 1864 and continued with the courage and the tenacity of purpose characteristic of the Federal commander for nearly a year, and resisted with the bravery and strategy and wealth of expedient of the Confederate leader until the forces of the South, worn out by the constant assaults and the incessant hammering, were compelled to yield to the greater numbers and the greater resources of the North. To Pennsylvania, as one of the great States of the Union, engaged in the determination to save it, fell the burden of furnishing tens of thousands of men for the struggle in every part of the line of attack, but especially in the Army of the Potomac, was the force of her people and their devotion to the cause felt. Beside her serried columns, she contributed to the Union army, Major General George C. Meade, the commander of the Army of the Potomac; four corps commanders, Hancock, Humphreys, Birney and Parke, together with Gregg, the commander of the cavalry division, a roster of which she may well be proud.

The mine under the Petersburg works which was successfully exploded in the early summer of '64, was the work of the miners of Pennsylvania enlisted in the 48th Regiment of that State, and the work which was done by them called for especial mention in the despatches of General Meade. In the operations in and about Petersburg, from the early summer of '64

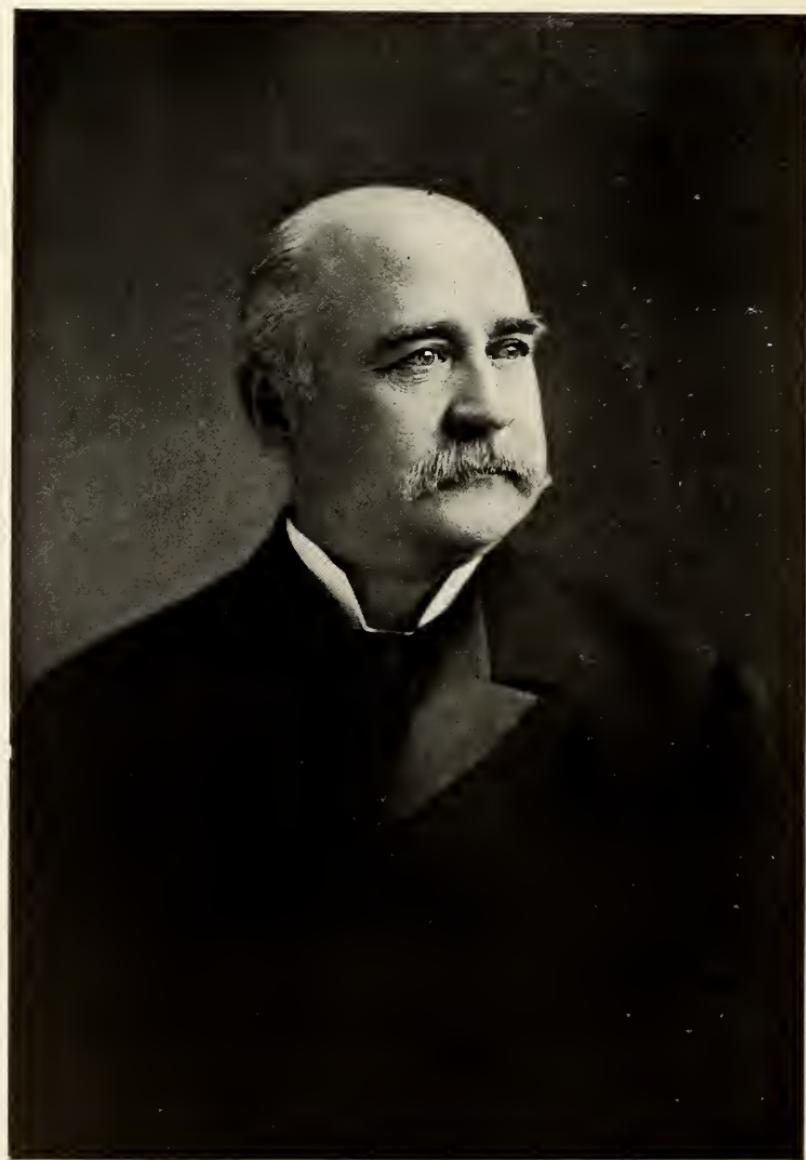
until the surrender at Appomattox in '65, there were engaged from Pennsylvania upwards of eighty thousand men, a larger number than now constitutes the army of the United States. Upon the 25th of March, 1865, General Lee determined to make an assault upon the Federal besieging lines east of the town, and successfully carried them by attack of a division under General Gordon, only to be ultimately defeated by the attack offered by Hartranft's two Pennsylvania brigades. These brigades had just been recruited and might have been expected to yield to the terrific onslaught of the Confederate veterans; but, taking on the stubbornness and courage of their great brigade commander, they withstood the battle and turned the enemy and added to the martial renown of the Keystone State.

It is forty-four years since the battle of Fort Stedman and the subsequent victory of the Hartranft division. In the time which has passed the bitterness of the interneceine struggle has passed away, and we now treasure as a common heritage of the country the bravery and the valor of both sides in that controversy. A memorial which marks the steadfastness, the courage and the soldierly qualities of the forces engaged in defense of the Union, finds its true significance and meaning in the corresponding bravery and courage of those with whom the battle was fought.

The Army of the Potomac under Grant and Meade, was seconded and supported by a generous government. Constant reinforcements, generous supplies of food and clothing, needful fuel and shelter, the tender ministrations of physicians and nurses, and frequent communication with home and friends, all these abounded in the Union lines. It was hardly so with the Confederate forces. Scantly clothed, rarely on more than half rations, and for considerable periods reduced to an allowance of bacon and meal hardly sufficient to sustain life, the long winter through, their shivering infantry manned the ever-extending siege works, and made head against the vigorous assaults of the Union army until their depleted ranks were no longer equal to the defense of their attenuated lines, and they gave up a contest which by any other soldiers but the tried and seasoned veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia would long before have been abandoned. We could not dedicate this beautiful and enduring memorial to the volunteer soldiers of Pennsylvania with such a scene of its justice and appropriateness, had they not been confronted by an enemy capable of resisting their assaults with equal valor and fortitude. Pennsylvania's pride must be in the victory achieved by her men against so brave, resolute and resourceful enemy.

That we can come here to-day and in the presence of thousands and tens of thousands of the survivors of the gallant Army of Northern Virginia and of their descendants, establish such an enduring monument by their hospitable welcome and acclaim, is conclusive proof of the uniting of the sections and a universal confession that all that was done was well done;





Governor Edwin S. Stuart, of Pennsylvania, who accepted the monuments at Fort Stedman and Fort Mahone and turned them over to Governor Claude R. Swanson, of Virginia.

that the battle had to be fought; that the sections had to be tried; but that in the end the result has inured to the common benefit of all.

The men of the Army of Northern Virginia fought for a principle which they believed to be right and for which they were willing to sacrifice their lives, their homes—all, indeed, which men hold most dear. As we recognize their heroic services, so they and their descendants welcome the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the soil of Virginia and join that Commonwealth in honoring the services rendered by its gallant sons in the struggle for the preservation of the Union. The contending forces of now half a century ago have given place to a new North and a new South, and to a more enduring Union in whose responsibilities and whose glorious destiny we equally and gratefully share.

Music by Fortress Monroe Military Band.

Gov. Edwin S. Stuart, of Pennsylvania, on behalf of the Monument Commission and speaking for the State of Pennsylvania, delivered the monuments at Forts Stedman and Mahone into the keeping of Gov. Swanson, of Virginia.

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#### GOVERNOR STUART'S ADDRESS.

AS GOVERNOR of Pennsylvania I accept this monument from the members of the Commission appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act of Assembly making an appropriation for the purpose, and desire to congratulate them upon the faithful manner in which they have performed their duty. The memorial is erected on this spot by the people of Pennsylvania as a token of gratitude to the memory of the officers and enlisted men of the Third Division, Ninth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, and will forever be known as the Third Division Monument. The division was commanded by a Pennsylvania soldier, General John F. Hartranft, and no braver man ever drew a sword in defense of a cause. After the close of the rebellion he retired to civil life and served his State in a civic capacity both as Auditor General and later as Governor with the same devotion to duty with which he defended the flag of his country when he fought here.

And now, Governor Swanson, we leave this memorial to the northern soldier in the keeping of the people of Virginia with absolute confidence that they will never permit any injury or harm to come to it, and I know I express the sentiments of all the people of Pennsylvania when I tender their thanks, not only to those of your people who have met us here in such a fraternal and kindly manner, but more particularly to the members of the General A. P. Hill Camp, Confederate Veterans, who in a fraternal and patriotic spirit have marched to this place with the survivors of the 3rd Division, 9th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, and assisted them to dedicate this tribute to their fallen comrades. It is an

act of brave men toward brave men, and I assure you that when we return to our homes we will ever remember with grateful recollections the heartfelt and sincere welcome received at your hands this day.

Music by the Cadet Band, Petersburg, Va.

Gov. Swanson in accepting the trust of caring for the monument spoke as follows:

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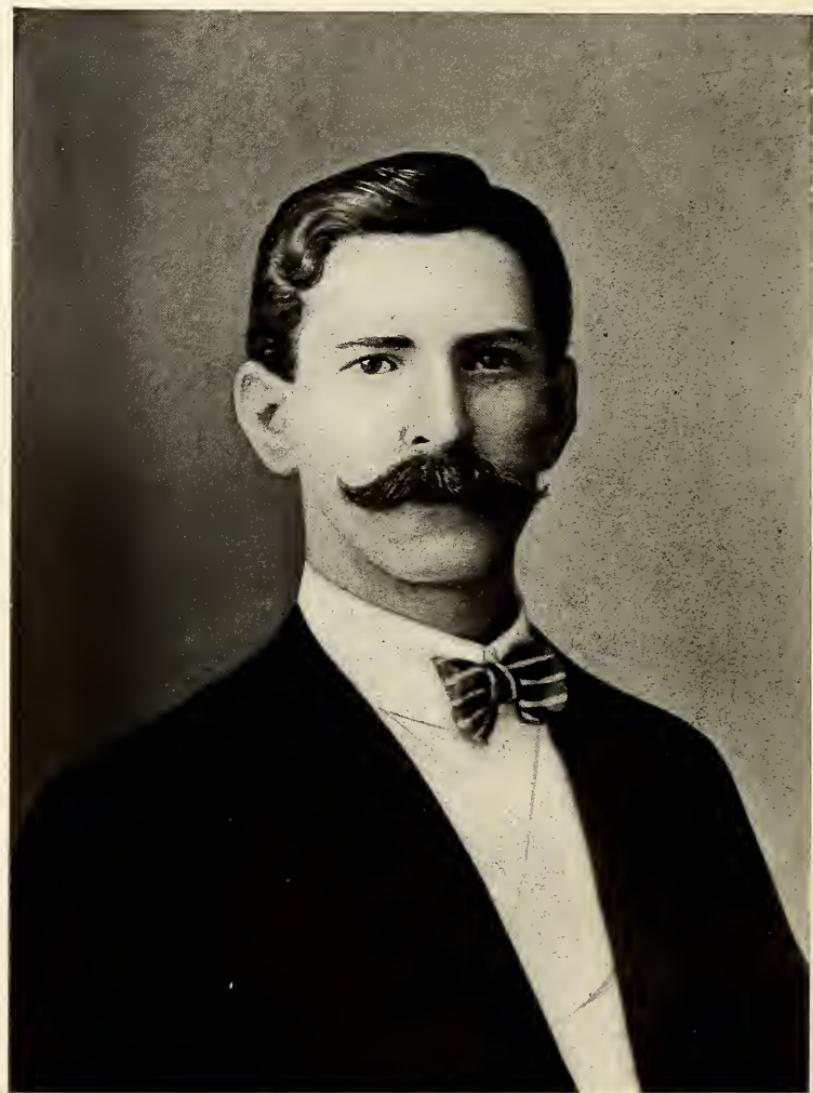
#### GOVERNOR SWANSON'S ADDRESS.

**T**HE President, His Excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania—Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have listened with profound pleasure to the splendid addresses of the distinguished men, who have preceded me. Their patriotic utterances find a responsive chord in my bosom, and I am sure in that of the Virginia people. This Commonwealth is proud of her vast contributions to national greatness and glory. She rejoices that in every line of national endeavor her illustrious sons have labored and their achievements have given to State and nation unfading lustre and renown. She views with pride the superb career of her many daughters in statehood and feels that their glory but adds to her a deeper, richer majesty. She salutes with congratulations of maternal pride her illustrious daughter Ohio, and directs me to convey to the distinguished son of that State, the President of the United States, her blessings and benedictions, and the ardent hope that the vast power and responsibilities given him will result in national progress, prosperity and glory.

She wishes me to give to the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania her fraternal greetings; to assure her that the ties formed during the storms of the Revolution, when each became battle-scarred, are yet tender and dear and that nothing that has since occurred has either obliterated or lessened these close ties. She rejoices that you have seen proper to commemorate the valor and heroism of your soldiers by erecting here suitable and befitting monuments. We pledge you that they shall be respected and preserved continually cared for as memorials of valor and courage. Every Federal monument necessarily conveys a tribute of honor to Confederate valor; every one erected to the heroism of the gray also attests the courage of the blue. The greater valor and courage exhibited; the great suffering endured; the great sacrifice made; the great military genius displayed by both sides during the late Civil War, have brought to us the profound respect and awe of all nations and surrounds this people with a halo of glory that is imperishable. Nowhere in the broad theater of war did valor, heroism and military prowess display themselves more brilliantly and strikingly than in the fierce battles which raged for months around Petersburg and her environs. The surrounding soil is made sacred by the rich libations of heroic blood, generously poured upon it by blue and gray. Here should be reared Federal and Confederate monuments to tes-





Governor Claude R. Swanson, of Virginia, who received the monuments from Governor Edwin S. Stuart, of Pennsylvania.

tify our admiration of the brave soldiers who sealed their devotion to their cause with their lives, but "won death's royal purple in the foeman's line."

Sirs, through all the coming years will Petersburg be connected in imperishable renown, with great commanders, heroic valor and a brave, determined soldiery.

As we stand here to-day and recall the stirring scenes, the fierce war and bitter strife of forty-four years ago, what a contrast is presented. The flag then rent now floats without a seam. The frightful nightmare of sectional hate has disappeared in the glorious dawn of a re-united country. And this majestic Republic, steadied once more on its four mighty pillars of North, South, East and West, is being builded each year stronger, higher, grander. To-day Pennsylvania and Virginia, forgetting all past hostility and conflict, lovingly embrace each other and each wishes that the other may have all measures of happiness and prosperity.

We have as our welcome and honored guest the President of the United States, whose patriotism embraces all sections and who purposes to be the President of all the people, regardless of past or partisan differences. And we witness the pleasing spectacle, to-day, how the people of a great State, on whose soil was fought more than one thousand battles, whose homes and fields were devastated, who were reduced to poverty and distress, bravely accepted their new destiny and condition, commenced the rehabilitation of their prostrate State and have unceasingly worked and toiled, without complaint, until they have builded a Virginia, greater in population, greater in wealth, greater in educational advantages, greater in future possibilities than the glorious Virginia of the past. This majestic superstructure of progress and prosperity has been constructed without containing a single stone of malice or ill-will. Virginia's ambition in the future is that she may be, as she has been in the past, one of the brightest jewels in America's great crown of glories.

In conclusion, as we stand on these once battle-scarred grounds, on this beautiful May day, and see the landscape now covered with rich green verdure, the beautiful lines of Shakespeare describing the end of civil war in England seems so appropriate that I cannot refrain from quoting them:

"No more the thirsty entrance of this soil  
Shall daub her lips with her own children's blood;  
No more shall trenching war channel her fields  
Nor bruise her flowerets with the armed hoofs  
Of hostile paces; those opposed eyes,  
Which, like the meteors of a troubled heaven,  
All of one nature, of one substance bred,  
Did lately meet in the intestine shock—  
And furious close of Civil butchery.  
Shall now, in mutual, well beseeming ranks,  
March all one way; and be no more opposed  
Against acquaintance, kindred and allies.

After music by the Fortress Monroe Military Band, the presiding officer, Col. Goddard, called on Rev. Dr. Plannet, former chaplain of the 211th Regiment, to offer the benediction. After the benediction was pronounced, taps were sounded three times from Fort Mahone by a bugler from the Fortress Monroe band and echoed by a bugler from the Cadet band stationed at Fort Sedgwick, known throughout the siege of Petersburg as "Fort Hell."

#### CIVIC PARADE.

**S**CARCELY had the echoes of taps died away among the pines around Fort Sedgwick when a long line of carriages were drawn up in front of the Presidential stand to escort the President and other distingushd guests to Petersburg, and through its crowded streets under the following escort:

The line of march from Fort Mahone to be as follows:

From Fort Mahone to Jerusalem Plank road, to Hickory street, to Jefferson street, to Apollo street, to Adams street, to Cupid street, to Sycamore street, where they will join in the main column. The mounted escort will here pass in front of the President's carriage and precede the infantry escort, which will be composed of the second battalion, Second Regiment, Virginia Volunteers, under command of Major E. E. Goodwyn.

The Second Battalion, Second Regiment, Virginia Volunteers will assemble on Cupid street, right resting on Sycamore street.

The Battalion of Coast Artillery from Fort Monroe will assemble on Shore street, right resting on Sycamore, facing north.

First Battery, First Infantry Virginia Volunteers, will assemble on Shore street, left resting on Sycamore, facing south.

Other infantry organizations to assemble on Sycamore street, right resting on Cupid street, facing west.

Grimes' Battery of Artillery, after firing salute to move to Mars and Sycamore streets, there to take their position in line as the column passes.

Petersburg Fire Department to assemble in Filmore street and take position in rear of column as it passes.

The order of column formation will be as follows:

1. Police.
2. Chief Marshal and staff.
3. Mounted escort.
4. Kesnich's Band.
5. Second Batt. 2d regt.
6. President and party.
7. Post Band, Fort Monroe.
8. Batt. Coast Art. Fort Monroe.
9. First Batt. Band.
10. 1st. Batt. 1st Regt. Vt. Vols.

11. Provisional Organizations, Inf.
12. A. P. Hill Camp Drum Corps.
13. A. P. Hill Camp C. V.
14. A. P. Hill Camp S. C. V.
15. Pennsylvania Veterans.
16. Grimes' Battery.
17. Citizens on foot.
18. Petersburg Fire Department.

Proceed with parade as heretofore announced.

The following aides are detached with the various organizations:

With mounted escort—Capt. J. A. Nichols.

With infantry escort—Lieutenant George W. Watson.

With President and party—Capt. J. C. Bodoun and Lieutenant W. R. Nichols.

With infantry organizations—Lieutenant Wm. A. Bond and Lieut. C. E. Bowie.

With A. P. Hill Camp—Ernest Jones.

With Pennsylvania Veterans—I. J. Hartley.

With Grimes' Battery—George W. Harrison.

With citizens on foot—H. L. Percivall.

With Petersburg Fire Department—C. F. Collier.

Assistant marshals will report at head Sycamore street promptly at 12.30 P. M.

By order of

THE CHIEF MARSHAL.

Benj. Harrison, Chief of Staff.

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The list of carriages with their occupants were:

1. The President, Wm. H. Taft; the Mayor, Wm. A. Jones; Col. Milton A. Embick, sect'y com., and Capt. Archie Butt, Military Aide.
2. Ambassador Jusserand, M. Swanson, Charles Hall Davis and Hon. George S. Bernard.
3. Governor Swanson, Madame Jusserand, Governor Stuart, Mr. Mischler.
4. Admiral Sigsbee, Mrs. M. C. Donlop, Hon. Geo. A. Pearre, Mrs. Pearre.
5. General James Magill, Mrs. James Magill, Dr. E. A. Alderman, W. B. McIlvaine.
6. Ex-Governor Montague, Mrs. Montague, R. B. Davis, Mrs. Davis.
7. Lieut. Governor Murphy, Adjutant General Stewart, Col. Ripple, A. B. Millar.
8. Col. Morrell, Col. Potter, Col. Logan, Col. Weaver.
9. Col. Patterson, Col. Brown, Lieut. Col. Reid, and Lieut. Col. Bradley.

10. Lt. Col. Beitler, Lt. Col. Pusey, Lt. Col. Rook, Lt. Col. Hutchins.
11. Lt. Col. Wiggins, Lt. Col. Sailer, Sergt. Green, James Lamberton, Virginia Staff.
13. Col. Dempsey, Mrs. Dempsey, Col. Masse, Mrs. Masse.
14. M. C. Brauch, Col. Sterne, Mrs. Cameron.
15. Col. McAdams, Col. Scott, Col. Parrish, Mrs. Parrish.
16. Col. Lawless, Miss Lawless, Col. Payne, Mrs. Payne.
17. Col. Rucker, Col. Roberts, Col. Pettit, Mrs. Pettit.
18. Col. Waite, Mrs. Ellerson, Col. Holdt and Mrs. Holdt.
19. Col. Bradford, Mrs. Bradford, Major Hunter, Mrs. Moore.
20. Col. West, Mrs. West, Ben. P. Owen.
- D. Pennsylvania Commission.
21. Mrs. Milton A. Embick, James Bayard Embick, F. Wellington Ruckstuhl, Mrs. C. G. Flower, Mr. C. G. Flower.
22. Major I. B. Brown, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Harold Gilbert, Mr. Rasselias Wilcox Brown.
23. Major Huidekoper, carriage, private.
24. Col. Goddard, A. L. Bates, W. N. Jones, N. T. Patterson.
25. Mrs. Hartranft, Misses Hartranft, Mr. Hartranft.
26. Mrs. William Mahone, Mrs. General Dodd, Mrs. Margaride and Miss Margaride.
27. Mrs. W. L. Magill, Hon. M. E. Olmsted, Lt. Gov. J. C. Ellyson, Mr. Henry Whitaker.
28. Capt. Aughenbaugh, Miss Aughenbaugh, Mr. Aughenbaugh.
29. Capt. Frederick, Miss Frederick, Capt. Seabold and Mrs. Seabold.
30. A. H. Bond and Family—Private.
31. Mrs. Gen. Gilbert, Mr. Seward Jones, Mrs. Jones, Miss Mabel Jones.
32. General Stith Bolling, Gen'l. Kohler, Hon. C. B. Hemp, J. E. Whitehorne.
33. Ex-Gov. Hoge Tyler, Bishop R. A. Gibson, Rev. Richard McIlvaine, Bartlett Roper, Sr.
34. Col. John S. Mosby, Simon Seward, Raleigh C. Smith, Richard B. Tinstall.
35. William Mahone, Alva H. Martin, Judge Waddill and Mrs. Waddill.
36. Geo. Cameron, Sr., and guests.
37. W. L. Zimmer, E. K. Victor, Hon. James R. Mann, Hon. W. H. Wiley.
38. W. A. Patton, R. B. Cooke, J. N. Purriance, Elisha Lee.
39. Commander Quimby, Hon. Nichols, M. C. J. D. Eggleston, Jr., J. R. Patterson.
40. Dr. W. S. Drewry, Dr. Emmon G. Williams, W. S. Copeland, John L. Williams.

41. H. P. Stratton, Judge J. O. Pritchard, Hon. E. H. Madison, H. C. Loudenslager.
42. Judge W. H. Mann, Hon. E. W. Roberts, Hon. J. M. Miller, Rev. J. S. Forster.
43. Rev. C. B. Bryan, L. E. Johnson, Hon. N. E. Kendall, Hon. D. A. Hollingsworth.
44. Rev. J. B. Winn, Hon. T. B. Hanna, Hon. J. W. Dwight, Col. W. H. Stewart.
45. Dr. R. W. Barnwell, Hon. A. B. Stewart, Hon. W. J. Carey, Rev. D. H. Holston.
46. Robert Gilliam, Sr., Rev. J. T. O'Ferrell, Rev. Dr. Schmitt, Rabbi Klein.
47. Rev. J. S. Foster, Julian S. Carr, Hon. P. P. Campbell.
48. Francis R. Lassiter and Army Officers.
49. R. Bolling Wilcox and Army Officers.
50. Charles T. Lassiter and Army Officers.
51. Charles A. Douglas, Gibbs Baker, James Baker, Rev. W. C. Taylor.
52. Charles Hensett, Mrs. Hensett, Mrs. Van Amriuge, Alexander McNeil.
53. Hon. H. R. Burton, J. M. Chappell, J. L. Jarman, R. K. Davis.
54. Dr. Rawley Martin, Miss Martin, Dr. E. E. Field, Mrs. W. F. Drecory.
55. Press Representatives.
56. Press Representatives.
57. Press Representatives.

At the conclusion of the civic parade the Presidential party were driven to the magnificeunt home of Hon. Charles Hall Davis, where luncheon was served not only to the Presidential party and the distinguished ladies present, but to several thousand Third Division members and their comrades in gray on the spacious grounds surrounding Center Hill Mansion. The President and his party were seated at luncheon on the porch of the mansion in the following manner: The President, on his right, Hon. Charles Hall Davis, Gov. Edwin S. Stuart, of Pennsylvania, Senator William B. McIlvaine, of Virginia, Admiral Sigsbee, U. S. N., Hon. Geo. S. Bernard, local historian of the Confederacy; Col. John S. Mosby, C. S. A.; Hon. M. E. Olmsted, Pa.; Capt. N. T. Patterson, Wendell Mischler, Asst. Sect'y. to Pres.; Ex-Gov. Hoge Tyler, of Va.; General Stith Bolling, Com. Va. Div. Confederate Veterans; W. N. Jones, Pres. Board of Alderman, Petersburg. To the President's left sat: Gov. Claude A. Swanson, of Va.; M. Jusserand, Embassador from France to the U. S.; Dr. E. A. Alderman, Pres. Univ. of Va.; Major I. B. Brown, Pres. Pa. Battlefield Com.; Hon. Wm. M. Jones, Mayor of Petersburg; Major A. C. Huidekoper, Chief Marshal in charge of unveiling exercises; Ex-Gov. Montague, of Va.; Capt. A. W. Butt,

Military Aide to the President; Col. R. H. I. Goddard, Providence R. I., Presiding officer Fort Mahone unveiling; R. B. Davis, Ex-Commander of A. P. Hill Camp Confederate Veterans; Col. Milton A. Embick, Sec'ty Battlefield Commission; L. E. Johnson, Pres. Norfolk and Western R. R.; J. E. Whitehorne, Commander A. P. Hill Camp Confederate Veterans.

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LUNCHEON GIVEN IN HONOR OF MRS. TAFT AT CENTRE HILL MANSION.

**W**HILE more than a thousand guests including men from many States besides Pennsylvania and Virginia were being served at an al-fresco luncheon under the shade of the majestic oaks and elms which adorn the "Centre Hill" lawn, a party of thirty ladies were entertained at luncheon in the spacious dining-room of the mansion. The guests of honor included the wife of the French ambassador and the ladies who accompanied the Pennsylvania veterans on their pilgrimage to dedicate and unveil the handsome monument erected to the memory of the heroic soldiers of the Third Division Ninth Corps, commanded by General Hartranft.

At three o'clock the guests including those from a distance, and the Petersburg ladies, invited to meet them, assembled in the drawing room and were presented by Mrs. Charles Hall Davis to Madame Jusserand. They were then ushered into the dining-room and seated at a large circular table, decorated with exquisite orchids and delicate ferns. A blessing was asked by Bishop Gibson of the Virginia Diocese, after which an elaborate menu of eight courses was served by the Washington caterer who had the affair in charge. It was a matter of deep regret to all present that Mrs. Taft was unable on account of illness to be present at Petersburg, and a toast to her was proposed by Mrs. Swanson, expressing many kind wishes for her health, each lady standing to take a sip of champagne. Those present at the table were Madame Jusserand, wife of the French Ambassador to the U. S., Mrs. John F. Hartranft, widow of General Hartranft, of Pa.; Mrs. Isaac B. Brown, wife of the orator at Fort Mahone, of Corry, Pa.; Mrs. A. C. Huidekoper, wife of the Chief Marshal of Meadville, Pa.; Mrs. Milton A. Embick, and her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Guiles Flower, of Carlisle, Pa.; Mrs. Harold Arthur Gilbert, who unveiled the monument at Fort Mahone, of Williamsport, Pa.; Miss Mable Elizabeth Jones, of Boston, Mass., granddaughter of Lieut. Hugh Jones, who was the first officer killed at Fort Stedman. Miss Jones unveiled the monument at Fort Stedman. Mrs. Seward W. Jones, of Boston; Mrs. Lyman S. Gilbert, of Harrisburg, Pa., formerly Miss Cameron, of Petersburg; Mrs. Claude A. Swanson, Mrs. Montague, Mrs. Lucy Lee Hill McGill, daughter of Gen. A. P. Hill; Mrs. Charles Hall Davis, Mrs. William B. McIlvaine, Mrs. William M. Jones, Mrs. Geo. S. Bernard, Mrs. Richard B. Davis, Mrs. Robert T. Meade, Mrs.

Tarlton Heath, Mrs. W. Gordon McCabe, Jr., Mrs. Barnard Mann, Mrs. Edmund H. Patterson, Mrs. Wm. F. Drewry, Mrs. Arthur Kyle Davis, Mrs. Harvey Seward, and Mrs. H. P. Stratton. At the conclusion of the luncheon the ladies returned to the drawing room where they were introduced to President Taft by Mayor William M. Jones. The President, delightfully cordial to all he met, made the reception a very happy one. Later the luncheon guests occupied seats upon the north portico and listened to Mr. Taft's address from the mound in the park. In the evening from the south portico with Gov. Swanson as toast master, the President again delivered a very happy address; he was followed by the French Ambassador, Gov. Stuart, of Pennsylvania, Dr. Alderman, President of Virginia University; Senator McIlvaine and others. And thus the nineteenth of May, 1909, passed into history.

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#### BRILLIANT CLOSE OF A GREAT DAY.

The reception to the President at night even excelled in brilliancy the various entertainments of the day and gloriously ended an occasion which Mr. Taft says could not be excelled.

More than 2,000 men and women passed before the President, who, in the absence of Mrs. Taft, received alone, the introductions being made by Captain Archibald Butt, his aid.

Centre Hill, which is one of the most historic of the Colonial mansions in the South, where the function was held, was beautifully and profusely decorated with flags and great bowls of American Beauty roses, while the extensive grounds were ablaze with streamers of electric lights.

On the lawn the guests were served on tables of turf, under splendid old trees, while two military bands furnished the music.

Governor Swanson and Mrs. Swanson, with a score of colonels in brilliant uniform, and Governor Stuart of Pennsylvania, with his staff in full dress, each held informal receptions, while perhaps a hundred officers of the Virginia militia were present in uniform to give an added brilliancy to the occasion.

The French ambassador made a charming address, after a most happy introduction by Hon. A. J. Montague.

The costumes of the ladies were altogether charming and the scene upon the lawn was like a fairyland.

Louis A. McMahon writing for the Petersburg Index Appeal thus summarizes the day and event:

"Smiles, Beauty, History; these three words epitomize the epoch making visit of William Howard Taft, President of the United States to the City of Petersburg.

"Under smiling southern skies, amid scenes of beauty and never-to-be-

forgotten splendor, the Chief Executive of the nation, the people of Petersburg, and the veterans in blue, enacted scenes in a drama, which will ever remain vividly before the people of these United States.

"It has been a great day, not alone for Petersburg, for Virginia or Pennsylvania, but in the history of the whole country, a day which will conduce to a greater reunion—a day to make stronger our common love for our common country, for which all of us, if necessary, are willing and ready to die.

"Spoken from the lips of the ruler of the greatest government in the universe, these utterances best express the meaning of May 19, 1909. Mr. Taft, when he spoke these words, enunciated with a strong emphasis and force, and Petersburg's swelling heart but palpitated the faster, and the souls of her admirable sons glowed warmer and more content in the consciousness of duty well done. Presidents there have been a score and more, days that have faded are more innumerable than the constellations of the firmament, but however, long this nation may endure, no chief executive, and no day will ever shine forth in such luminosity, in such bas-relief, and such historic splendor as William Howard Taft, and May 19, 1909."

Midnight still found the streets of the City of Petersburg crowded with the Blue and the Gray, greeting each other as fraternally as long lost brothers. Houses were thrown open and receptions given the most elaborate one being given by the widow of General William Mahone assisted by her charming daughter, Mrs. McGill. Her spacious mansion on Washington street was crowded by Gov. Stuart and his staff, of Pennsylvania, the members of the Petersburg Battlefield Commission, with their wives and daughters from Pennsylvania, and many other distinguished guests until eleven o'clock at night. President Taft left for a short visit to North Carolina and during the night and next day the members of the Third Division bade goodbye to the veterans in gray and took trains for their homes in Pennsylvania and other states, never again to meet until in the White Tents of the Camp Eternal. *Their work was done.*







